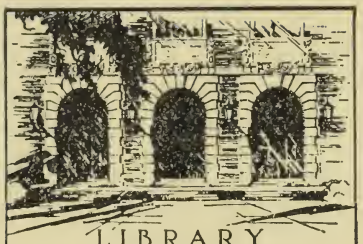

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UNEDITED LETTERS
OF
JONATHAN JENNINGS

With notes by
DOROTHY RIKER

Indiana Historical
Society Publications
Volume 10
Number 4

INDIANAPOLIS
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1932

PREFACE

The largest, indeed the only extensive, printed collection of papers of Jonathan Jennings, the first governor of the state of Indiana, is included in Volume 3 of *Governors Messages and Letters. Messages and Papers of Jonathan Jennings, Ratliff Boon, William Hendricks,* edited by Logan Esarey (*Indiana Historical Collections,* Volume 12, Indianapolis, 1924). This is devoted almost entirely to the period when Jennings was governor. The greater part of the papers in this present *Publication* are from original manuscripts in the William H. English Collection, Harper Memorial Library, University of Chicago. For permission to publish them the Indiana Historical Society is indebted both to the officials of the library and to Willoughby G. Walling, grandson of Mr. English and donor of the collection.

A large number of the official papers included here are from archives of various departments of the government in Washington, D. C. Photostatic copies are in the Indiana State Library; for permission to publish them, as well as a number of letters from the Tipton Papers and the Jennings Collection, we are indebted to Louis J. Bailey, director, and Miss Esther U. McNitt, head of the division of Indiana history and archives.

Another source for Jennings letters has been early newspapers such as the *Western Sun,* of Vincennes, *Western Clarion,* of Madison, and *Indiana Journal,* of Indianapolis. Due to the scarcity of copies of these newspapers, this group of letters, including a few proclamations and letters to constituents, are reproduced in the present publication.

Jennings' political career is detailed in eulogistic manner in Jacob Piatt Dunn's *Indiana*: *A Redemption from Slavery* and *Indiana and Indianans,* and in a far less favorable light in Logan Esarey's *History of Indiana* and the editorial portion of his *Messages and Papers of Jonathan Jennings, Ratliff Boon, William Hendricks.* A good brief biography by Joy Julian Bailey is to be found in the *Dictionary of American Biography* and a more extended one by Dorothy Riker will appear in the near future in the *Indiana Magazine of History.*

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN,

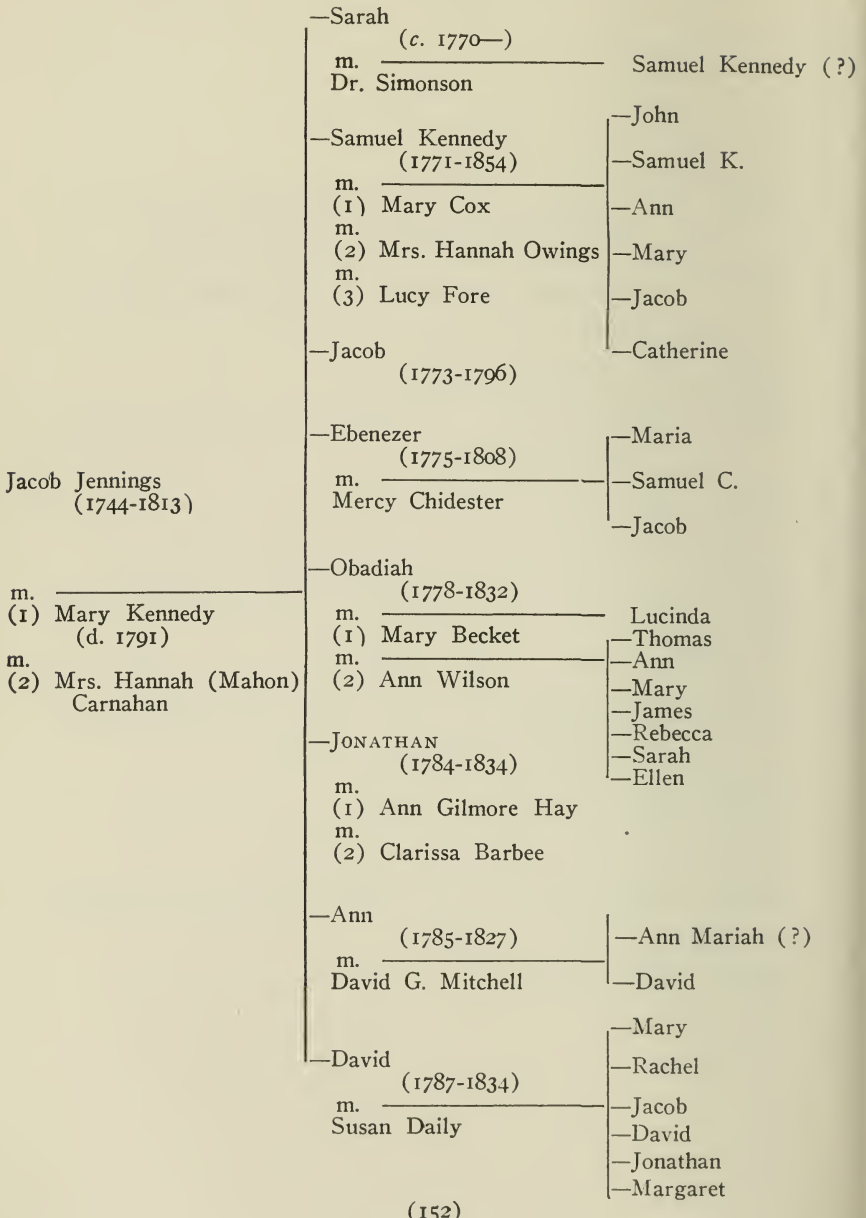
Secretary Indiana Historical Society

CHRONOLOGY

1784	Jonathan Jennings born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, or Rockbridge County, Virginia
c. 1791	Moved with parents to Dunlaps Creek, Pennsylvania
1806	In Steubenville, Ohio
1807	Admitted to practice of law, at Vincennes, Indiana Territory, April
1808	Removed to Clark County
1809-16	Delegate from Indiana Territory in Congress
1816	President of Constitutional Convention, Corydon
1816-22	Governor of State of Indiana
1818	Commissioner to treat with Potawatomi, Wea, Delaware, and Miami Indians
1822-31	Representative in Congress
1831	Retired to farm near Charlestown
1832	Commissioner to treat with Potawatomi and Miami Indians
1834	Died July 26

THE JENNINGS FAMILY

Three Generations



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LETTERS OF JONATHAN JENNINGS

Jennings to David G. Mitchell

[English Collection]

Steubenville[1] January 16th 1806

Dr D G Mitchell[2]
Dr Sir.

From the information of your letter consider me as addressing one closely connected to her that is as yet as dear to me as any on this earth. Whilst I from my inmost heart fervently desire that you both may enjoy every comfort and heartfelt satisfaction, this world can afford, suffer me to transmit you a few desultory thoughts and selfmade observations.

And first my dear and only Sister, it is a position too plain to admit of proof, that your sex enter into matrimonial contracts, and take upon [themselves] the connubial banns in order to be happy. But remember in every condition in life lively hopes of futurity, and chilling blasts of adversity rise in thick succession; Thus at one time we are borne through all the enchanting scenes of the unknown mazes of fruitful imagination: anon we are by some trifling and unknown contingency enveloped in clouds of black disappointment. The only preventitive to corroding cares that I have found is not to set too high an estimate on any prospect nor repine at the blessings of the day. By this means prosperity cannot cause you to exalt, nor adversity with all its concomitants shall have power to disturb your peace. Let me assure, to be happy, is to be contented; by every laudable means render your partner happy,

[1]Steubenville, Ohio. Before deciding definitely where to establish himself, Jennings lived with his brother Obadiah, who was practicing law in Steubenville.

[2]Dr. David G. Mitchell, Jennings' new brother-in-law, was a graduate of a medical school in Philadelphia; practiced at Brownsville, Washington, and Harrisburg, Pa.; removed to Corydon, 1818; treasurer, first state medical society, 1820, president, 1823; member, House of Representatives, 1832-33. He is not to be confused with Dr. S. G. Mitchell, a contemporary, of Indianapolis.

as well as give happiness to your domestics. If your domestics do not respect you, they never will reverence you, and if they reverence you not they are the worst you can have. Ever preserve that dignity and respect due to you and your sex, and cultivate equanimity the grand criteria of an exalted mind.

Next Sir you call my attention, and although we are connected, you cannot suppose I can use the same liberality of expression on a point so delicat, and still more so does it appear the more I contemplate the subject. Think not that that I have taken upon me the business of a preceptor, but view me as a friend as a connection, making free with the same.

Mitchell you as well as myself know that human nature is prone to err, that persons of nice feelings, are generally persons of warm passions. That the marriage state frees no one from the bonds of nature. In the circle of my acquaintance there lives a young married couple, for some time after wedlock they seldom had any cause of contention, but now when anything ruffles the temper of the wife, she immediately finds fault with her husband, he impatient of being chid when conscious of no fault, retorts, and now by long custom, every month or two I am informed they will scarcely speak to each other for a week. Thus have I known those who after marriage have lived years together, as happy as happy could be, afterward lived miserably all their lives. Let me offer this one thing to you as being the most able to affect it, [that] is, be sure the first [time] any coolness takes place, as there always does sooner or later between man and wife, remove the cause instantly and instead of having bad effects, it will tend rather to cement your affections. Now, Sir, to your care friend and husband I commit from henceforth, my only my beloved sister, the dearest relict of a once tender though departed mother, whom had she lived to bless her and myself with maternal [care], our [progress] in this life would have been more advan[ced].

I subscribe myself a most sincere [ms. torn] to you and your partner, who has ever [been] the object of my fraternal care and affection.

JONATH JENNINGS

$10

Pay Adam Blair $3.00

Ditto Sam[l] Rodger $4.70 [Four sums and items crossed off]

and keep 2.30 Give the note to the owners as James [?] Dunlap is gone to Butler County

My black silk handkerchief at Mrs. Elliotts let Anna get without the knowledge of Papa, or Mama, and keep.

JONATH JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Dr. D G Mitchell Fayette Co Pa

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

STEUBENVILLE 18th February 1806

DR DAVID G. MITCHELL

DEAR SIR

Yours per mail came duly to hand, but let me inform you that if in my former I wrote any thing unpleasant to the feelings of either of you, I assure you that it was not intentionally. Believe me, that I desire your happiness as well, and equally with my own. You are dear to me Sir, not only because you possess a generous and independant mind, but likewise that you are dear to her who has always been the tender object of my heart.

I should be glad [if] you would inform me if Miss Mahan has written to Mama, and what Miss Nancy [Breading] thinks of my deserting her. I expect that reasoning from the catalouge you sent me all the children in your neighborhood will be married shortly.

I intended as you saw by the crosses in a former to have sent that money, but Obadiah was so engaged in stockjobbing that he could not do it without injuring himself more than those to whom it is due. You may expect it shortly. I left the writing of your letter to the last knowing I had time sufficient, but the bearer sets out a day sooner than I expected, therefore you must excuse the present, under promise of one the next opportunity as long as the hundred and nineteenth Psalm

I am Sir, sincerely the friend of D. G Mitchell

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

STEUBENVILLE August 18th 1806

DR DAVID G. MITCHELL
DEAR SIR

To bury in oblivion the defects of a friend is the best ensign of friendship; and to neglect the bagatelles of a summer is the only remedy either of us can obtain for the past. I have been down the river almost all summer, and since my return I could hardly afford time to write to —— —— though notwithstanding I wrote you once by private conveyance, I also had one partly prepared when Mr Noble was here, but he seemed so much in a hurry that I could not detain him.

To justify the conduct of Kennedy, would beggar all description, to justify the harsh treatment of his nearest relations, I shall not pretend; but this much may be said with justice, that he is a great villain, that he is a great liar, that he is very artful and designing, that he may yet be brought to observe the path of rectitude, if the goading hand of severity was held over him with sternness, and a proper line of conduct prescribed for him to walk by. Thus my dear Sir, may we observe in this too affecting, too near and too fatal [in]stance, the great curse to society and to families, that beings so ferocious so inhuman and tyger like as unprincipled men should have so great and important trusts delivered to their charge as the bringing up, and education of children. We have done all we can for that profligate and above all the worst of boys—yet my heart often feels a tender emotion for the only child of my departed Sister, yet would I were I in circumstances that would admit make one trial more, to regain the disconsolate, the unfortunate, the abandoned S. K. Simonson. And if that will not prove effectual, if so many offers will be by him rejected, let him take his dernier resort, the enfi[l]ade of every of every rascal, the gallows.

I am determined that he shall never more disturb my peace. It is uncertain when I shall visit Delaps creek, as our Supreme Court is not yet past. I have some intention of going to

Virginia to reside as Brother S. K. insists very hard, and gives me great encouragement.

To you and yours I shall ever be a sincere friend and ever

Affectionate Brother

JONATHAN JENNINGS

P. S. Say nothing to any of my letter to any person for reasons which are obvious, I cannot at this time write to all.

J. J. . . . GS

[Addressed:] Dr. David G. Mitchell Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

VINCENNES, INDIAN TERRITORY

June 27, 1807

Dr DAVID G. MITCHELL

DEAR SIR

I expected a line from you by Ewing,[1] but none arrived,—what can be the cause—have I offended—how—in what manner? not intentionally I am certain—I cannot charge you with neglect, lest you retort—Indeed I have been so closely confined to my writing desk, excepting a few days after my arrival, that I have written but little else, than "Sundries Dr," at which time no paper could be had. My prospects meet my expectations, but the place is full of rascals and &c I have been very near fighting a duel with the Clerk of the General Court, but he thought proper to make concessions[2] I must trouble you to know of each of the merchants in Brownsville what quantity of cotton they would purchase and at what rate—likewise what it sells at in trade such as country linnen, whiskey &c, and at what for cash—when you know what each would purchase you can inform me what quantity might readily be disposed of, and

[1]Nathaniel Ewing was receiver of the land office at Vincennes where Jennings was employed as clerk.

[2]Henry Hurst was appointed clerk of the General Court of Indiana Territory on January 14, 1801, and served during the entire territorial period. *Executive Journal of Indiana Territory 1800-1816*, p. 95 (*Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Vol. 3, No. 3, Indianapolis, 1900).

at what rate. If the quantity and price please, perhaps I may stay a few days with you this fall. You will mention the delivery to be on the last of November or first of December—should the quantity and price warrant—I will write upon the receipt of your answer, and inform you what will be my determination Upon your receiving knowledge of my going to your country I will consider myself bound to deliver and they to receive. This knowledge you shall receive befor the merchants set out for Philadelphia. Inform me what prospect you have for fruit of different kinds.

Remember me to Sister, Pa, Ma, David, Uncle & each of his family I am Sir your friend & Brother

JONATHAN JENNINGS

P. S. Dont suffer one mail to pass before you write an answer, and remember me to Cunningham.

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

VINCENNES September 19. 1807

Dr D. G. MITCHELL

MY VERY DEAR SIR:

Your second favour was received last evening, which has determined the fate of my adventure to the well know, the well known spot. To me your letters were too short, on many accounts. You never informed me of Miss Breading, Miss Bowman. And more than that, your promise to give me information concerning Miss Mahan, has never been fulfilled.

God only knows when we shall meet again, as life is but a lottery, duelling and principles of honour are ever more regarded the fa[r]ther you go to the Southard. If we should have a British war I am determined to risque all I can scrape in the world, and run a Contraband cargo to the neutral isles. We have to a man, been warned to be ready at a minutes warning, to march against the Indians.

I worked my way so well, that, I was very near being Clerk

to the House of Representatives of the Territory, and I believe I might have been elected, had I played a double part, but being under promise on certain conditions not to offer; I could not reconcile it to myself to offer, and thereby wound my promise.[1]

The Clerk of our General Court, views me with a jealous eye on account of his Office; I fear I shall have to kill him before he will be at rest. I challenged him, he made concessions, as I wrote you, but since I have understood, has been insinuating something, I know not what to my disadvantage.

Some description of this place, with it manners and customs, would fill an Octavo volume. The situation is highly picturesque, situated on the East side of the Wabash almost surrounded by a beautiful Prairie, nearly one mile wide, and about three in length, on the East of, and adjoining the Prairie, are what is called the barrens which are generally covered with shrubs five or six feet in height, and which barrens are ten or fifteen feet generally higher than the Prairie. Just on the borders of the Prairie where it adjoins the barrens, are three Sugar loaves, or curious mounds regularly formed; they are from twenty to thirty feet above the level of the Prairie and of gentle ascent from the East. From the summit of which you have a prospect of animate and inanimate nature for several miles.[2] From their summit you can behold numerous herds of Cattle, some on account of their distance appear not larger than yearlings. You may behold at one and the same time a hundred plows going, under one inclosure, which belongs to the French, who cultivate in Common. Their Customs are often very ridiculous and grating to the feelings of an American.

. . . . . .

A short time ago a Frenchman's wife died, in fifteen days after he married a second wife, the French on account thereof,

---

[1]During the session of 1807, Jennings was employed as assistant to the clerk of the House of Representatives, and in 1808 was assistant clerk to both houses of the territorial legislature. *Laws of Indiana Territory*, 1807, p. 537; 1808, p. 41.

[2]He refers to the prehistoric remains of the mound builders, which are still to be seen. One of them is known as the Sugar Loaf Mound.

together with the cause, of his having married a young girl, convened around the house of the new couple, with bells, death's heads, and a coffin, singing blackguard verses, and ringing cow bells, striking on old kettles, playing on horse fiddles, night after night, until they got hold of him, they then put two large bells on him, one hanging behind and the other before and marched him two or three hours around town, so ended the farce. Money may be made next spring at the publick sales, you will know, when and where they will take place, as it will require a law of Congress therefor. I intend exploring the Country that will first be offered for sale, and should you be disposed and it be convenient for to remit me money I will speculate with the same for a certain part of the profits,—for all immediate profits one half—[when] I shall not make return under nine or twelve months one fourth, and if the lands do not sell within twelve or fourteen months—I will take nothing unless the profits should be so great as to equal Cent per Cent per annum, or overrun, in such case what I shall have will be left entirely with you. Brother Sam K. has promised to remit me more or [ms. torn] to the amount of $1000 against the sales. If [I] had been in possession of 500 dollars last spring without information or personall traversing the lands, I could have made $1000 clear by this time as others have I think that Jeffersonville in a year or two will be a very good place for you, it is very probable it may yet be the seat of Government for a new state It is surrounded by a fine Country, populating very rapidly, and immediately at the falls of Ohio. I could wish to be near my sister and you, think of it, in my Opinion it will do very well. write me

I am sincerely yours affectly

JONATHAN JENNINGS

Remember me to Pa and Ma, Uncle and family, Cunningham and give my sister the warmest expressions of my tender regard. Remember me to David, inform me what you may know concerning him and his views. adieu. J. J . . . GS

[Addressed:] Doc David G. Mitchell Brownsville, Pa.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

JEFFERSONVILLE Decem. 1st 1808

Dr DAVID G. MITCHELL

MY VERY Dr SIR

Yours of the 28th of October ultº was received by last mail, but its contents were not very grateful, although it afforded me much satisfaction.

The unfavourable news of the event of my mercantile project was of little account, compared with the melancholy intelligence of Brother E. Jennings's irrevocable fate.[1]

It brings afresh to memory the scenes, when he stood over my *expected* Death Bed, with an unremitted attention would to God that I could watch his declining days, his departing moments, and take his last assurance of the friendship of which his heart was so susceptable.

Tell him if he yet lives, tell him for me, that my circumstances are such that I cannot again see him, until we shall meet at the Bar of Almighty God!

Tell him a long farewell; bid a long, a sad & last adieu for a Brother who holds him near his heart.

Your request my dear Sir shall now be answered as to the place where the seat of Government will be fixed upon the division of the Territory I cannot precisely tell.

This County, to wit, the County of Clark will most undoubtedly contain the Seat of Government before two years, nay, perhaps before one, as resolutions were sent to the General Government from the House of Representatives of the Territory requesting Congress to divide same.[2]

The County of Clark is without a Physician except a miser-

---

[1]Ebenezer Jennings, an elder brother, was a physician and served one term in the Pennsylvania legislature. He died November 21, 1808, of pulmonary tuberculosis. Jennings, William H., *A Genealogical History of the Jennings Families in England and America,* Vol. 2, pp. 194-95 (Columbus, Ohio, 1899).

[2]The law providing for the separation of Illinois from Indiana Territory became effective March 1, 1809. *Annals of Congress,* 10 Congress, 2 session, cols. 1808-10. Vincennes remained the capital, however, until 1813, when Corydon became the seat of government.

able Quack and it will be the Centre of the Territory upon the division without doubt.

In the next place it is a tolerably well watered Country, soil generally rich, and level and will after a few years, afford fine roads for Carriages, and land is quite cheap.

Jeffersonville is situated about 70 miles from Lexington and is the seat of Justice for the County of Clark, in fine Sir I think the Country better adapted to a rising family, and another consideration Sir which you will prize equally with myself is, that I can assure you that an instance of the consumption has not been known in the Territory.

By settling in this County you will not find yourself out of business, you will become acquainted and known & I dare to say that you will be pleased.

This County was the most populous of any in the Territory until last Session when the Legislature divided the same.[1]

I can assure you Sir, that you will meet a favourable reception and there are several characters in the County who know my father and yours in Law, and on account of which I am as well received as I could expect as my residince in Clark County only began one month since.

Come on and settle or see the Country and we shall be near each other. It has been a long time since we had an interview, now going on three years. It is my desire and determination to be near my sister and you.

Sickness and disappointment have been the cause of my making some sacrifice in so much that I am embarrassed—otherwise I should have been up this fall to see you, but could not. I am rather of opinion that I shall not be able to visit you next spring unless Papa will assist me to 50 or 60 dollars.

I have to request that you will see Papa on my behalf and request him to assist me. I am in want, for I know not the time I may be pushed for the money, the name of which will be an injury to me in my profession; as I am settled where I

[1]On October 11, 1808, an act had been passed creating Harrison County out of the counties of Knox and Clark. *Laws of Indiana Territory,* 1808, pp. 3-5.

may yet be called a stranger. The Summer after I went to Vincennes my attention was occupied in the Land Office; the following fall and winter I was sick and unable to attend to business of any kind which was the cause of my leaving Vincennes.

I laid out all the money I could raise upon land and was obliged to sell at a great disc[oun]t in order to pay some of my debts, as my sickness & disappointments rendered me unable [to] meet the payments. Insist upon Papa to help me.

Give my compliments to M[iss] Nancy Breading and &C [ms. torn] and give me an [ms. torn] answer whether Papa will do anything for me or not, as I can [ms. torn] M^r John Work who will be with Pa next [ms. torn][1]

I cannot tell when I shall visit you if [ms. torn] assist me. If you do not settle in this County s[ome] Physician will. Where is David give my respects [to] friend Cunningham. I am fully determined to [ms. torn] Ladies of my acquaintance had better look sharp.

My love to Pa & Ma. Adieu my frie[nd. Believe] me to be forever your friend Sincerely

JONATH[AN JENNINGS]

P. S. Preserve me a lock of Brothers hair if he should die.

J. J.

[Addressed:] Doc David G. Mitchell Brownsville, Penna.

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL

[Copy in Indiana State Library]

JEFFERSONVILLE Dec: 5^th 1808

DEAR SISTER.

Your first letter since my long absence came to hand last mail. You confess you have been negligent; You know my [o]nly Sister that I have never been unwilling to forgive any person much less yourself.

I long to live near you and enjoy your society I have been advizing the Doctor to move hether, it is a fine Country and as

[1]There was a John Work who operated a mill on Fourteen Mile Creek in Clark County. Baird, Lewis C., *Baird's History of Clark County, Indiana,* pp. 60-61 (Indianapolis, 1909).

I informed him, I can assure you that there has never been an instance of the consumption proving fatal. Brother Ebennezzer will never see me more I would give great satisfaction to once more converse with him before he leaves the world but I cannot.

I am [r]ather unhappy at such a distance from my friends and I am very anxious to See Pa & Ma

I am determined to marry so soon as I can please myself. The young ladies will look sharp when I come up to see you, or else I will come around them.

Prevail upon the Doctor to live in this Country and then I shall be contented. I will marry and we can enjoy the sweets of reciprocal friendship.

Rest assured Dear Sister, that you claim and possess a place in my heart which time can never supplant until I shall go the way of all the earth.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mrs. Anne Mitchell Brownsville Pa.

BOND FOR PAYMENT TO PARMENAS BECKES[1]

[English Collection]

[July 18, 1809]

Know all men by these presents that we Jonathan Jennings and James Lemon are held and firmly bound unto Willis W. Goodwin Sheriff of Clark his certain attorney his heires &C in the full Sum of three hundred and twenty four dollars and Six and one fourth Cents Lawful Money for which payment well and truly to be made to Said Goodwin his heires &C We bind ourselves and Each of our heires jointly & Severally by their presents Sealed with our Seals and dated this the 18th day of July 1809. The condition of this obligation is Such that if the Said Jonathan Jennings do appeare before the judges of the General Court for the Indiana Territory at the Court house in Vincennes on the first tuesday in

[1] Parmenas Beckes was sheriff of Knox County, 1807-09, and proprietor of a tavern in Vincennes. Burns, Lee, *Life in Old Vincennes*, p. 454 (*Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Vol. 8, No. 9, Indianapolis, 1929); *History of Knox and Daviess Counties, Indiana*, p. 173 (Chicago, 1886).

September next to answer parmenas Beckes of a plea of debt of one hundred and twenty four dollars six and one fourth cents then this obligation to be void else remain in full force and Virtue

attest JONATHAN JENNINGS (Seal)
JOHN VAWTER[1] JAS LEMON[2] (Seal)
deputy for
W W GOODWIN Shff C C

JENNINGS TO ———
[English Collection]

CITY WASHINGTON 27th Decemb 1809

MY DEAR SIR

My seat will be vacated in a few days, and in a few days after I shall be with you on my way to Indiana to again enter the lists of Candidates as we must try it over again as Paddy said when he got a drubbing. We are to have another election.[3]

The detail I will give you when I see you, till then you must excuse. God knows I have had hardly time to eat with everything hurrying. I am preparing a detailed account for the Pres of the Proceeding in my contested election.

Health, happiness & prosperity attend you adieu

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]Vawter was a pioneer of Jefferson County, having come to that place from Virginia in 1802. He served as justice of the peace of Clark County and as sheriff of Jefferson County. Moving northward, he founded the town of Vernon in Jennings County. From that county he served in the state House of Representatives, 1831-35, and in the Senate, 1836-37. Territorial *Executive Journal*, pp. 148, 167; Indiana Biography Series, Vol. 2, p. 257 (Mounted clippings in Indiana State Library).

[2]James Lemon was a justice of the peace of Clark County and succeeded Goodwin as sheriff in 1811. Territorial *Executive Journal*, pp. 132, 175, 204.

[3]In the election of a delegate to Congress from Indiana Territory in 1809, Jennings received 428 votes, Thomas Randolph, 402, and John Johnson, 81. Randolph contested the election, alleging irregularity in part of the returns from Dearborn County and proving that no election had been held in two precincts of that county. *Annals of Congress*, 11 Congress, 1 and 2 sessions, cols. 844-48, 1172-73. For a statement of the outcome, see Jennings to Mitchell, January 16, 1810.

JENNINGS TO WILLIAM DUANE
[English Collection]

[December, 1809]

MR. DUANE

Having lately observed in the National Intelligencer, a lengthy memorial from the Legislature of the Indiana Territory, praying for the reappointment of their present Govenor William Henry Harrison, I therefore, as a friend to the honour and interest of the United States, and as a foe to all speculating and intriguing men in office, request the insertion of the following interrogatories, at least once or twice in your impartial Advertiser.[1]

1st Did Govenor Harrison, when acting as a Commissioner for the United States, in exam[in]ing titles to land and granting permissions to make locations thereof in the County of Knox in said Territory, promise, Toussaint Dubois of Vincennes, that he would give him a permission to locate a quantity of land in said County, which should include the Grand rapids of the River Wabash (being a valuable mill seat) and did Govenor Harrison after so promising Dubois, enter into partnership with William McIntosh of Vincennes, and did McIntosh furnish a claim of 1,200 acres of land, and locate by the special permission of the Govenor, the Grand Rapids of the Wabash, before promised to Dubois—and did Govenor Harrison receive 400 acres of land from McIntosh for granting the permission to him instead of Dubois?

2d Did Govenor Harrison when acting as a Superintendant of the Sales of the United State's lands at Vincennes and receiving from the U. S. at the rate of six dollars per day

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[1]William Duane was editor of the Philadelphia *Aurora and General Advertiser,* a vigorous Republican sheet. Duane had been rewarded for his strong support of Jefferson's candidacy for the presidency, by an appointment as lieutenant-colonel in the Regular Army. See Jennings' letter of February 19, 1810, where he is referred to as "Colonel Billy." The memorial here referred to was adopted by the Indiana legislature on October 20, 1809. On December 20, 1809, Harrison's commission was renewed for three years following January 16, 1810. *Western Sun,* December 23, 1809; *Journal of Executive Proceedings of the Senate of the United States of America,* Vol. 2, pp. 130, 131 (Washington, 1828).

for his services as a Superintendant give, in partnership with others, $150, to hire and prevent men from bidding for those lands, over which, he, with others, was placed as an agent of the United States, and whose duty it was, to see that the United State's lands were sold for the best price possible?

3d Did Govenor Harrison, when acting as a Superintendant of the sales of the United State's lands at Vincennes as aforesaid, for and in behalf of Thomas Jones of Vincennes, of[fer] Nathaniel Ewing of the same place $500 dollars, if Ewing would not bid against said Jones for the fractional sections of land at the mouth of the Wabash River—and did Govenor Harrison say afterwards, that his reason for so doing was, that Jones came to him apparently in great distress on account of Ewing's intention to bid for said fractional sections, and that Jones had frequently obliged him by lending him considerable sums of money and he wished to do him a favour in return?

4th Did Govenor Harrison, after he issued his proclamation for, and before the election of the Delegate to represent the Indiana Territory in Congress, on the 22d of May 1809; write electioneering letters to officers of the militia and others, tending to prejudice the minds of the people against the afterwards successful candidate, and did Govenor Harrison in one or more of those electioneering letters at the same time, pledge himself for his friend?

5th Did Govenor Harrison in person, at the distance of eighty miles from the place of his residence in the Territory, address the voters when assembled at the Polls, in favour of his friend Mr Thomas Randolph?

6th Did Govenor Harrison, after the people of the Territory had solemnly given their votes and elected a Delegate to represent them in Congress, subscribe twenty five dollars, to a subscription paper on the 4th of July 1809 and promise to give an hundred, for the purpose of sending on an agent to the seat of Government of the United States, to represent the Town of Vincennes or the County of Knox in Congress?

Can His Excellency the Govenor of the Indiana Territory

answer the foregoing interrogatories in the negative? The first can be proved by the Honorable Henry Vanderburgh, William M^cIntosh and John Rice Jones who wrote the Conveyance or conveyances—all of whom are at, or near Vincennes.

The second can be proved by The Honorable Waller Taylor of Jeffersonville.

The third can be proved by Doctor Elias M^cNamee, and likewise by Nathaniel Ewing of Vincennes.

The fourth can be proved by Major John Harberson, John G. Pfrimmer and Moses Hoggatt of Harrison County and Colonel Joseph Bartholomew of Clark County in the Indiana Territory.

The fifth can be proved by almost any person who was at the Polls in the District where the Govenor was in Harrison County upon the day of the election.

The sixth can be proved by the Hon^ble Henry Vanderburgh who was present.

Are these interrogatories worthy of the notice of the President and Heads of Department of the United States or not? I let the Publick[1]

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

CITY WASHINGTON 16^th Jan^y 1810

Doc^t D. G. MITCHELL

With great anxiety and attention to business my time has been spent since my arrival here. If I had not been very negligent myself I should be disposed to ask why I have not received a line from you since our last interview, but this is [a] matter of form, I only [hope] to draw a line from you if pos-

[1]The rest of the manuscript is missing. As leader of the anti-administration group, Jennings was opposed to slavery in Indiana and to Harrison's use of the patronage. He advocated the removal of the territorial capital from Vincennes in order to free it from the control of the "aristocrats" that Harrison had gathered around him. Woollen, William Wesley, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana,* pp. 29-32 (Indianapolis, 1883); Goebel, Dorothy Burne, *William Henry Harrison,* pp. 64-65, 85-87, 125-26 (*Indiana Historical Collections,* Vol. 14, Indianapolis, 1926).

sible. News, we have little of importance, except what is given more in detail than the limits of a letter would contain. My contested election has been to me a matter of considerable concern. Embarrassed in pecuniary matters, and pushed by my creditors, having little or no resort but to my own exertions, what could be my sensations under every apprehension that my seat would be vacated. The Committee of elections unanimously concurred in opinion that our Govenor had no authority to order the election at which I was elected. This Report of the committee of Elections was concurred in when in Committee of the whole House.

Upon this my competitor, entertaining no doubt that it would pass in the same manner upon its final passage, left the City for the Territory to the end that he might take the advantage of me in electioneering. Not only so, it was circulated among the members through my ingenuity, that I should not pretend to oppose the Report because I feared it was too just. After my rival had left the City about four days, the Report of the Committee of Elections was brought up in order of the day & the question was shall the Report & Resolution, which was subjoined & which went to declare my seat to be vacant, pass.

I had previously prepared the minds of some of the members both Republicans & Federalists to receive my attempts, and when the question was called for, I rose & in a lengthy argument opposed the final passage by remarking in my onset, that I thus did, because I conceived it a duty due from me to the citizens of the Territory. This awakened and brought forth arguments for & against. The debate upon the subject lasted part of three days which cost the U. S. not less than $2,000 and when the vote was taken the yeas & nays were called, & to the surprize of all, only 30 voted in favour of the Report of a standing Committee, viz the Committee of Elections with Wm Findley of Pa. as their Chairman, not only so, the Report of the last mentioned Committee was unanimous, & their Report was concurred with in the Committee of the whole House nemine contradicente & 83 voted against the Report making

nearly 3 votes to one in my favour.[1] Such a circumstance was never known before in the House & every member almost is expressing their surprize. Thus you see Sir, that I have exposed the conduct of my great enemy the Govenor, & have also been able to retain my seat in spite of all the sanguin expectations of my rivals & Enemies.[2]

Three several times I spoke upon the subject in the H[ouse] occupying in the whole not less than 5 hours, and old Findley acknowledged to me that, although he was certain he was in the right, he found that that I had too much ingenuity for him at least in the present day, & this I effected without irritating one of the members of the Comm: of Elections against me, but on the contrary they appear at least more friendly. Such are men, & human nature will ever be found to be the same in every station. My competitor under full impressions that my election would be set aside, will have made interest throughout the whole Territory before he learns his disappointment. Little indeed will he feel when he finds, that he has made interest for an election which will not take place for 16 months; when he thought & will declare will take place in the term of a few weeks. Probably I shall visit Sam[l] K. Jennings on my return. If you will exchange saddles write me & tell me what difference you judge there is between the saddles & if I should think it not too much I will pay it as I return. Write me any how, confound it—write if it is only to tell me that you & family are well.

Give my tender love to my dear Sister, who very frequently occupies my most tender reflections. The days we have spent together from the days of childhood to riper years, have been spent with as much real tenderness & affection as ever was realized by Brother & Sister. She, whose affection I have long appreciated with yourself, after presenting my compliments to your father & family, will please to accept the many consider-

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[1] *Annals of Congress,* 11 Congress, 1 and 2 sessions, cols. 844-48, 1172-73.

[2] For Jennings' version of Harrison's conduct in the election, see Jennings to Duane, December, 1809, p. 171.

ations, with which I am your Brother affectionately & very sincere friend

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

CITY WASHINGTON 18th Jany 1810

MY DEAR SIR

I have to request of you to encourage Mr. Cooper to commence Editor at Vincennes.[1] He will receive much encouragement at once, one man I am informed by letter will for the first year subscribe for 50 copies to any independant Pres. He will receive encouragement from both Indiana & Illinois Territory. By going there now he can at once take the lead and ever after keep it, when every year his establishment will become more valuable.

I wish him to be there before the next meeting of the Territorial Legislature that he may obtain the Public printing

My love to Sister & believe me to be very truly yours—I expect to visit Brot Sam: K. Jennings on my return

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

CITY WASHINGTON 19th of February 1810

What can be the reason I cannot hear from you. I have been expecting every Mail or two to receive a line from you, but am as often disappointed. Surely Sister has no excuse, whatever may be yours. I had determined not to write you again until you at least alamode sent me your name.

When I sat down to write this letter it was my full intention

[1]Jennings was eager to have a newspaper published in Vincennes which would further his interests, but the *Western Sun* was so firmly established that his efforts proved unsuccessful. Elihu Stout began the publication of the *Indiana Gazette* at Vincennes on July 4, 1804. About a year and a half later the press was destroyed by fire, but in 1807 Stout resumed publication, changing the name to the *Western Sun*.

to have went within one step of cursing a little, but I supposed you might retort. But still you might scratch me a line or two, confound it. I had very near written confound you—faith I have wrote it—well then, confound you for a —why dont you write me.

Have you heard from Miss N—— B——g since my departure. I did intend to have written to her but you are so far off from my old walks that I suppose it would be inconvenient for you to transmit it and you alone would I entrust with such an embassy. If however you could so far conveniently oblige me I would yet do it.

In a few days we expect to hear the result of the dismission of F. J. Jackson when you may again hear from me for the last time until you shall have sent me your Bonjeur.[1]

I am yours affectionately & sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

P. S. Tell Sis I must try and be even with by trying to forget her. Colonel Billy has not published the interrogatories.[2]

JENNINGS TO ALBERT GALLATIN

[General Land Office, M. L. R., 499]

JEFFERSONVILLE I. T. 6th of August 1810

THE HONble ALBERT GALLATIN ESQUIRE

In the District of Jeffersonville, is a Salt Spring which which was not noticed by the Deputy Surveyors, but the quarter section in which the Spring was discovered, was reserved by the Land Officers, or has not been offered for sale either

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[1]Jennings refers to Francis James Jackson, British minister to the United States. Strained relations existed between the United States and Great Britain due to British violation of neutral rights in her struggle with France, and to the impressment of American seamen. Jackson's predecessor, David Erskine, had made an agreement with the United States which was later repudiated by the British government. The appointment of Jackson, who was not inclined to be conciliatory, did not help the situation. After a brief correspondence between President Madison and Jackson the latter was informed that no further communications would be received from him and he was recalled by his government. Latané, John H., *A History of American Foreign Policy*, pp. 137-39 (New York, 1927).

[2]See Jennings to William Duane, p. 170.

in a publick or private manner, of which you must have been advised.

By a permission or Grant of Govenor Harrison, the Spring is now in the possession of a person or persons, who are incapable of making such a use of it, as will be of any publick advantage, even not so much, as to furnish the country adjacent with necessary salt, but it has been assigned and reassigned for speculative purposes without any known contract on the part of the United States, or the individuals who are, or have been in the possession of the same.

If the Spring was leased to a person of character, from whose exertions and capability to manage it in a proper manner, might be expected whatever of Publick utility it may probably afford, it would be a matter, of no small consideration to those parts of the Territory at least, which lie in any measure contiguous thereto, and also, in all probability, a matter of interest to the United States, at a period not very far distant.

It would seem as if the Govenor has considered it as a matter of small importance indeed, seeing he has placed it in the hands of men, without any kind of security for the use they should make of it who, by the naked possession, without any kind of contract, claim to themselves the right of disposing of it at pleasure, at least for a term of years. James Lemon Esquire of this place, will take the Spring if it can be gotten for any term of years that will warrant his making any substantial improvements. It is uncertain what may be the product of spending money upon the Spring, as the water is weak though in some measure plentiful, but how durable it may be, remains to be known.

Promise of Office in the Territory is not so uncommon, as that too before the existence of such office, that M^{r} Lemon fear[ing] his application to Govenor Harrison, should he make one on that score, might not meet an impartial decision, & has therefore pre[vailed] upon me to make an application for him, to the Secretary of the Treasury directly, and he will be very thankful to know as soon as may be convenient the fruits of his application.

The character of M^r Lemon as a man of business and probity, is unexceptionable. With sentiments of the high[est] esteem, I have the honor to subscribe myself most respectfully your very Humble Servant

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[First Indorsement:] Jeffersonville Aug^t 6, 1810. rec^d Aug^t 23^d Jonathan Jennings Esq^r respect[in]g salt-spring in Jeffersonville district. recommends that it be leased to James Lemon.

[Second Indorsement:] Has any & what instruction been given on that subject to Gov^r Harrison? A.G.

[Third Indorsement:] No instructions have been given. Two letters of Gov. Harrison supposed to refer to this saline, are herewith sent. D.L.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

JEFFERSONVILLE I. T. 4^th June 1811

MY DEAR SIR

If Miss W. has reached the Western parts of Pennsylvania be particular in placing in her hand the enclosed letter. If she has not crosed the mountains, forward the letter by the first mail not forgetting to pay the postage for me.

I wrote you some time since informing you that I was elected by a majority of 2 to one almost.[1] I wish it could find a place in your paper and pas from thence into the Democratick Pres, it will have a desired effect with the General Government.

If Miss W. has, or should cros the mountains I shall expect you to advise me of it immediately.

We go on well here and prosperity fills the sails of our Political Bark.

With my love to Sister I Subscribe myself your affectionately

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[1] In this second election for territorial delegate, Jennings was again opposed by Thomas Randolph.

JENNINGS TO ALBERT GALLATIN
[General Land Office, 166]

JEFFERSONVILLE I. T. 29th of June 1811

THE HONBle ALBERT GALLATIN ESQUIRE

Dr SIR.

The situation of the United States surveys contiguous to the lines of Clark's (or the Illinois) Grant, you doubtlessly are apprized, are such, as not only prevent their being sold, but likewise, may in all probability, give rise to much litigation in future.[1]

The lines which were run by Clark and his Associates, are in many parts obliterated, and will be rendered more and more obscure by time and incautious persons.

There are many who have settled near the Grant on the Publick Land and who are anxious to purchase, if they can procure the lands on which they have settled.

The original field Notes of the Grant line, I am told, can be procured, to direct in resurveying the lines.

Genl Mansfield has informed me, that he has not vouchers sufficient to warrant him in directing a resurvey.[2] If the original Notes, or the instrument by which the State of Virginia conveyed the land to the Illinois Regiment, will not form vouchers sufficient to warrant an order for the resurvey in an official manner, the inconveniencies arising in consequence thereof will continually increase

I should be glad if you could turn your attention to the

[1]The original survey of the land given by Virginia to the officers and soldiers of George Rogers Clark's regiment during the Illinois campaign was made in 1786 by William Clark and several assistants. A copy of the official plat book describing each claim is in the Indiana State Library. A copy of the boundaries of the Grant as a whole is printed in Wilson, George R., *Early Indiana Trails and Surveys*, pp. 406-8 (*Indiana Historical Society Publications*, Vol. 6, No. 3, Indianapolis, 1919). They were surveyed by metes and bounds with trees for the most part serving as reference points. The survey lines were run northeast and southwest, following the trend of the Ohio River.

[2]Jared Mansfield was United States surveyor for Ohio and Indiana Territory.

subject, if were only on account of those individuals who at present are prevented from purchasing. Most respectfully

I am yours

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[First Indorsement:] Enquire at departm[en]t of State whetther a patent has ever been issued for this grant which was reserved by Virginia in her act of session. See land laws page 31. A.G.

[Second Indorsement:] It appears that no grant has ever issued from the Executive for the above mentioned tract of land.

(S.P.) M^r Moore

[Third Indorsement:] Answ^d

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL

[English Collection]

JEFFERSONVILLE 15th of August 1811

DEAR SISTER

More than once I have written to the Doctor, but he has as usual neglected to let me hear from him. I have got news to tell you and except that I have little to write you. What think you, is the news? It is important and such as you never knew before. Yes! I am married and have a wife, a little black eyed wife, and you another sister and a namesake, I wish you were acquainted with her I am sure you would love her, not only for herself, but likewise for my sake.[1] Her disposition is very simular to yours & what can I say more. In the course of another year I expect to take her with me to see you, and in the mean time I will bring you a lock of her hair, which will serve you as a memento of her who is near to the bosom of your Brother, and will of course, be near to yours. She is

[1]Jennings was married August 8, 1811, to Ann Gilmore Hay. She was born in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in 1792. Her parents had formerly lived in Rockbridge County, Virginia. The year she was born they moved to Scott County, Kentucky, and when she was seventeen they crossed the Ohio River into Indiana and built a home in Charlestown. Morrison, Mabel C., *Ann Gilmore Hay. Wife of Jonathan Jennings from 1811 to 1826,* pp. 7-12 (Indianapolis, 1925).

anxious to see you and have your friendship, and I am sure you have hers.

I will see you about the middle of October next and till then, and eternally, be assured of the fraternal affection of your Brother.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

make my respects to the Doc[t] and tell [him] I did expect to have heard from him ere now

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 12[th] of January 1812

MY DEAR SISTER

I received your letter by the last Mail and was very glad to hear from you, although your letter was very short indeed. War with England, my Sister, is not only probabl[e but] almost certain, and widows & Orphans, are among the minor evils attendant upon a state of war and consequent bloodshed. Many of those events, which have happened in almost every age, will soon transpire in our Country, unless our warlike disposition should commence and terminate, like the wars which wives & old women too generally wage, viz, with loud scolding & many threats.

Do not understand me that I rank you among that class of female heroines to which I have alluded, but nevertheless be careful for I know you share a portion of the Scotch blood, and moreover many wives get into the scowling habit very imperceptably, by the invariable good nature of their husbands—but rely upon it that spectators or your servants will notice, even if your husbands do not.

Some good wives say, for excuse, that they *mean no harm by it,* and *perhaps* they are candid in such declarations. Ha ha ha!!!!! For my part, I am determined, that my wife shall never act *such* a part, as to render it necessary, for her to excuse herself by saying "that she means no harm by it." You need not shew this letter to any of the good matrons of your Town, I know that they generally in every part of the world, dislike

criticism as much as the critics. But as they know nothing of my wife, they cannot act towards me according to their usual custom, by exclaiming with a pithy sentence, emphasised with a frown, *look at home*. The City presents a very great variety of character this winter, yet notwithstanding the mirth & gaiety which the American Metropolis presents, I could spend my winters much more contentedly & happy with my little Ann at home. She is very well, and expresses frequently her desire to be acquainted with you. As yet it is not my power to say when I shall return, but in the course of six or eight weeks I shall be able to inform you probably. Remember me to the Doc^{t} and our friends, and believe me to [be] your Brother with much affection.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

P. S. In your next describe more particularly the coulor you wish for your dress, or send me a sample Fawn Coulor is too indefinite for me Show the exact coulour you wish Enclose me a small piece such as you wish J. J.

[Addressed:] Mrs. Ann Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO WILLIAM EUSTIS

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1153]

7th of February 1812

SIR.

Hereto I subjoin an extract of a letter written by Govenor Harrison to a gentleman in Clark County I. T. dated 18th of March 1811 to which letter is annexed a clause expressing a wish that it might be shewn to any person. The Secretary at War, will be enabled from the papers and &c in the possession of the Government, whether or not the Government will mark the adherents of Burr with attention under *any* circumstances.

> "You probably know that Prince was employed by Burr. This was the fact, but he came immediately to me* and communicated to me the circumstance and every thing relative to Burr's expedition which he knew, all of which was immediately transmitted to the President and

was perhaps amongst the first, if not the very first correct information that he received upon the subject. Far from thinking that his conduct with regard to that affair has been inimical, I have always believed that he meritted attention for this circumstance alone, and I have *reason to believe* that the Government do *not* think the worse of him on *that* account.

Upon Floyd's† return from Burr's expedition, knowing that the Government were grooping in the [dark] after testimony to develope the extent of Burr's designs and believing that Floyd might give much useful information, I wrote to him and engaged on the part of the Government that if he would come forward and disclose what he knew I would procure him a complete pardon and that I would moreover use my personal influence, to reinstate him in the good opinion of his constituents. He declined the pardon but accepted the other conditions. His two statements together with my obligations to him were communicated to the then Secretary of State (M^r^ Madison). I have from the Secretary of War (who saw my communications) a letter in which my conduct in this affair is mentioned with approbation. Agreeably to my promise, Floyd was continued in office, although much abuse was poured out upon me in the publick papers on account of it. After this clamour had entirely subsided, I had some reason to believe from information that I then received, that Floyd had not acted candidly with me in the confession he made and I therefore immediately dismissed him from his appointments"

*Quere, whether the information alledged to have been given, was given before the appearance of the Proclamation of M^r^ Jefferson in the Western Country?[1]

[1]The president's proclamation here referred to was issued November 27, 1806. It warned all those engaged or concerned in conspiring to set on foot a military expedition against Spain to withdraw, and enjoined all civil and military officers in the western territories to be vigilant in searching out and bringing to punishment all persons engaged or concerned in such enterprise. Ford, Paul L. (ed.), *The Works of Thomas Jefferson,* Vol. 10, pp. 301-2 (New York and London, 1905).

†Floyd was indicted and convicted before Waller Taylor & Thomas T. Davis, sitting as Judges of the General Court of the Indiana Territory, for a misdemeanor in having been associated in Burr's conspiracy.

Both Prince & Floyd are qualified for the Office of Cap[t] if their concern with A. Burr forms no objection.[1]

I am respectfully

JONATHAN JENNINGS

THE SEC[Y] OF WAR

[Indorsed:] 7[th] Feb. 1812 J. Jennings relative to Prince and Floyd—applicants for a commission Rec[d] Feb 8[th] 1812

JENNINGS TO JAMES MADISON

[War Department, L. R., S. W., 554]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SIR.

In compliance with the request of several citizens of the Territory which I represent, I have to suggest, that there exists apprehensions of a want [of] a sufficient number of arms and a sufficient quantity of ammunition for the defence of that

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[1]William Prince was a Vincennes lawyer. Davis Floyd, of Clark County, kept a tavern at Clarksville and acted as pilot at the Falls of the Ohio River. Neither suffered serious consequences from the connection with Burr. Prince successfully took his case before the territorial legislature in 1810. He held several offices under the territorial and state governments, and in 1823 was elected to Congress. Floyd, as the result of his conviction, was sentenced to three hours in jail, and fined twenty dollars. In July, 1808, Harrison revoked his commission as major in the militia and as a pilot but he later served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and in the lower house of the state legislature. However, neither Prince nor Floyd received a captaincy in 1812. Prince's name was proposed by Eustis, and put before the Senate by President Madison on March 10, 1812. The appointment was negatived the next day. Floyd's name was not proposed. In November, 1812, Harrison wrote Eustis asking for a commission for Prince, but it was not granted. Cox, Isaac G., "The Burr Conspiracy in Indiana," in *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 25, pp. 269 ff., 279-80; Goebel, *William Henry Harrison*, pp. 72-74; Territorial *Executive Journal*, p. 147; U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 2, pp. 231, 232, 233; Esarey, Logan (ed.), *Governors Messages and Letters. Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, Vol. 2, p. 228 (*Indiana Historical Collections*, Vol. 9, Indianapolis, 1922).

portion of the country from the apprehended attacks of the Indians.

With much respect I am obediently

JONATHAN JENNINGS

4th of May '12

JENNINGS TO WILLIAM EUSTIS
[War Department, L. R., S. W., 553]

THE HONBle WILLIAM EUSTIS

SIR

I feel it my duty to inform the Government through you, that the Indians have very lately, killed a man by the name of Hinton, about 50 miles northwest of the Falls of Ohio—They have also burned the House of a certain Mr Huston, together with his wife and children, about 15 miles North of Vincennes and murdered a man belonging to Huston's family, in a manner shocking to humanity—These facts admit of no doubt whatever. I have them from a scourse that cannot be questioned. The people are alarmed and fleeing from the frontiers. You will best know what attention these facts merit and require from the Government.

I am most respectfully yours &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

8th of May '12

[Addressed:] The Secretary for the Department of War

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 27th of May 1812

MY DEAR SIR

Your letter of the 17th inst I have the pleasure now to answer. Louisiana Territory in the neighbourhood of St. Louis is generally healthy. The land generally fertile and upon the whole desirable, but the Indians at present are very troublesome and will be more so. Whether they have any Ministers

of the Gospel I am at this time unable to say, I shall see you in the course of four or five weeks after this reaches you and can satisfy you more particularly. I cannot say where the seat of Government of our Territory will be placed as yet, but it will not be far from where I now live until the interior of the country becomes populated. I wish you would have my horse taken to Washington and fed plentifully with oats, from about the tenth of next month until I see you. He would not be the worse of being rode a few miles occasionally. Your oversight to his keeping will much oblige me indeed.

We are going on to the long talked of Ulterior measures one of which I believe will be war. Two weeks or less will give a clue better calculated to determine.

The Indians have done considerable injury in Indiana by murders. Love to all our friends.

Yours most Sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO ELIHU STOUT

[*Western Sun*, July 14, 1812]

[June, 1812]

MR. STOUT,

Understanding that a report has been circulated in the territory that I have been wanting in my endeavors to obtain from congress an adequate compensation for the volunteers and militia who served on the expedition to Tippecanoe, that I did everything in my power to have those brave men fully compensated for the toils and hardships which they were obliged to suffer, I hope the following letters which passed between colonel Samuel M'Kee, (the chairman of the committee to whom the memorial of the legislature of the territory, and others on the subject were referred) and myself will fully prove to every unprejudiced mind.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[First Inclosure]

REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER, 16th of June, 1812.

SIR,

It has been asserted in the territory which I represent, that I am to blame because the volunteers and militia were not more liberally compensated for their services in the expedition to Tippecanoe. As you sir, were the chairman of the committee to whom the memorials on that subject were referred, permit me to ask of you the favor to give me a short statement by way of reply, whether or not, I endeavored to obtain the prayer of those memorials to their full extent.

With much respect,
I am yours obediently,
JONATHAN JENNINGS

COL. SAMUEL M'KEE.

[Second Inclosure]

WASHINGTON CITY, June 17, 1812,

SIR,

Your note of yesterday is now before me. In answer thereto, I can say, from my personal knowledge, that every constitutional means within your power was exerted in order to obtain the additional months' pay, and a compensation in land, in behalf of the officers and soldiers who served in the Wabash campaign. If any blame should attach to you in this respect [or in any other, in which the interest of the territory was concerned] it will be unmerited on your part.

I am, sir, respectfully your obedient,
SAMUEL M'KEE.

JONATHAN JENNINGS, ESQ.

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 20th of Novr 1812

MY DEAR SISTER.

Shortly after this reaches you, I expect my little Ann will be with you. I wish and shall expect that you will exercise all that care and attention towards her which you as an elder Sister shall think proper. I do not wish her to visit any one connected with the connections of the Scott and Hogge family not even Mrs Browne. She is entirely unsuspicious of the world and innocently artless and such I wish her to remain. The Society of the Doct and yourself will be the only part of your family at any time with which she will desire, or I wish her to be entertained. I have often regretted that necessity compels me to be so much absent from her. It leaves her but too often an unprotected woman whose situation at all times is unpleasant. Be tender of her, she is tender and I need not tell you very dear to me. Your Town I know is but too much disposed to ill natured remarks and censuring, and I wish my Ann to continue as she is, far out of the reach of their ill nature or that of any person to which she may be otherwise liable, being as she is, very little of a citizen of the world. I am in tolerable health and am your affectionate Brother.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

P. S. This letter is only for your own and if you choose the Doct's perusal; burn it.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 12th of Dec. 1812

MY DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 4th inst I have received this evening. The noble Secretary has resigned and saved himself the best way he could. Before this reaches you, it will be publickly announced in the Gazettes. Rumor says also that P. Hamilton is

to give place to another. Reports are varient, as to the person who probably will be placed at the Head of the War Department. For myself I believe Gen[l] Armstrong will be the man. It is whispered that James Monroe is to command the Army in chief. That Gallatin is to be Secretary of State and Richard Rush, the present Comptroller, is to be Secretary of the Treasury.[1]

William H. Harrison is no longer to be Governor of Indiana,[2] This I have from the most confidential and positive authority. This will be like a jubilee to many in the Territory, while others will care nothing about it and others, will be ready to bite their fingers for disappointment.

I will see Lyle at a proper time, before I leave the City, on the subject of which we conversed.[3] Whatever may be the result I would try to conceal every feeling, no matter how unpleas[an]t. It is the first Principle of political philosophy.

Your attention to the health of my little Ann will be highly gratifying, to your faithful friend & Humble Servant.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]In December, 1812, William Eustis, secretary of war, and Paul Hamilton, secretary of the navy, resigned their posts. Both were bitterly accused of incompetence. Hamilton was succeeded by a Philadelphia shipowner named William Jones. James Monroe, secretary of state, became acting secretary of war. For some time he had been eager for chief command in the field, but rumors that he was to be not only commander-in-chief but secretary of war raised a storm of protest that made his appointment to either place impolitic. General John Armstrong, recently returned from service as minister to France, became the new secretary of war. Gallatin, should Monroe transfer to the War Department, expected appointment as secretary of state. Adams, Henry, *History of the United States . . .*, Vol. 6, pp. 395-98, 419-29 (New York, 1890).

[2]The appointment of Thomas Posey to the governorship of Indiana Territory was submitted to the Senate by President Madison on February 27, 1813, and approved by that body on March 3. Harrison's appointment as major general in the army of the United States was approved by the Senate on March 1. U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 2, pp. 329, 330, 333.

[3]Aaron Lyle, a representative from Pennsylvania from 1809 until 1817, had previously served as commissioner of Washington County for three years, and was a trustee of Jefferson (now Washington and Jefferson) College, Washington, Pennsylvania, from 1802 to 1822. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1927*, p. 1245 (Washington, 1928).

JENNINGS TO JAMES MONROE, ACTING SECRETARY OF WAR
[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1154-55]

REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER 29th Dec: 1812

I enclose for the perusal of the President of the United States, a letter addressed to me by Joseph Bartholomew, who acted as Colonel on the Tippicanoe expedition. He has long been accustomed to Indian fighting in former times and I do think his opinion on Indian affairs worthy of attention.

With much esteem I am very respectfully,

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Inclosure]

CHARLESTOWN 11th December 1812

DEAR SIR

I have some time since intended to write to you concerning our situation as to the Dilaware Indians, but have hetherto omited it for several reasons. Whether the dilaware Indians do commit murders on our frontiers or not is matter of considerable doubt. But that the Indians who does the mischief do return to or through the dilaware towns can not be doubted It is also worthy of remark that the frontiers that lies near the dilawares and who it was exspected was covered by them from the other tribes have suffered most. Since you left this county there has bin two men killed on the frontiers of Harrison County and twenty-five horses stolen by the Indians. I trust that government will take measures of some kind to have the dilawares removed. Numbers of them it is said has Joind the horstile tribes. I learn by the public prints that Congress is about to autherise a winter campaign. I hope it may be carried into affect, the more so because it is ascerted that a considerable number of Indians have collected between the wabash and whiteriver and intends making a stand there. A scouting party (of General Hopkens army) of sixty three men have lately bin defeated on the wabash near the Prophets

town and lost sixteen men.[1] I have no doubt but you will lay matters in a proper light before government as to the dilaware Indians. please to write frequently perticlarly upon Indian affairs. I am very respectfully

Sir your Humble servant

JOSEPH BARTHOLOMEW

THE HONORABLE
J. JENNINGS ESQ[r]

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 12[th] of January 1813

MY DEAR SISTER

Your letter of the 1[st] instant and the first I have received from you for a long time, I received by the last mail. I am very glad that you will be more punctual in writing. Since you have made the promise I hope you will be mindful to perform. It will give me a considerable pleasure to answer your scrolls (as you are pleased to term it) as often as you will give me the opportunity.

Do my Sister, afford every means reasonably within your power to make my little Ann happy as possible, till my return. I suspect you do not fully know her yet. She is generally reserved and very affectionate, and you will find her quick in observation although she says very little of what passes. She is indeed a good girl, and if she does not render me happy, no other woman could. You know I am not so very easily pleased. I have not received any thing from the Doc[t] for a month nearly. He is very reserved this winter, but I can excuse him if he can excuse himself. Tell him so, & tell him not to laugh

[1]Major General Samuel Hopkins, of the Kentucky volunteers, led a force of about two thousand men to the aid of the frightened settlers of Indiana and Illinois. An expedition directed toward Peoria in October, and the expedition up the Wabash, from which the scouting party, mentioned by Bartholomew, was sent out, both failed. See Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, Vol. 2, pp. 192, 231-32; Goebel, *William Henry Harrison*, pp. 152-53.

on the occasion. If he will laugh notwithstanding tell me of it & I will give him a drubbing in my next letter.

I am now commencing a reprimand for you, because of your asking of me a new-years gift. Could you suppose you would get a new-years gift of me after having so long neglected to write me. Would I not be justifiable in saying you would not have written to me yet, had it not been for the purpose of demand a new years gift. Oh you lazy Ann you have not caught me yet, but I have caught you I suspect. But what do you want as a new years gift. For a new years gift, accept for the present, the sincerity with which I am your Brother most affectionately.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mrs. Ann Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO JAMES MONROE

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1524]

27th of January 1813

THE HONBle JAMES MONROE

SIR

I have been requested by Mr Badollet of Vincennes I. T. to ascertain whether he can have one of his sons placed in the military Accademy at West Point. His son I believe is about twelve or fourteen years of age, and his education confined to writing and reading the English language with a knowledge of arithmetic.[1]

I have likewise to suggest that there are two vacancies in the company which was allotted to the Indiana Territory, from the additional military force authorised by an act of the last

[1]John Badollet was a friend of Albert Gallatin, both being natives of Switzerland. Gallatin secured for him the position of register of the land office at Vincennes. He also served for a time as chancellor of the territorial court of chancery, and represented Knox County at the Constitutional Convention of 1816. Dunn, Jacob P., *Indiana and Indianans* . . ., Vol. 1, p. 301 (Chicago and New York, 1919). His son, James P. Badollet, was admitted to West Point as a cadet on April 26, 1813. Heitman, Francis B. (ed.), *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* . . ., Vol. 1, p. 180 (Washington, 1903). A photostatic copy of his commission as cadet is among the Badollet Papers in the Indiana State Library.

Session of Congress, viz, those of first Lieutenant and Ensign. I am desirous to know whether it is the object of the War Department to have those vacancies supplied.

Another subject of still greater importance to the Territory is, the quantum and description of force, intended by the government to be allotted for the protection of its frontier. On this subject, permit me to remark, that if the protecting force is to be composed of Light Infantry, it will require a greater force than would be necessary, if that protection were afforded by mounted Rangers, because it is self evident, that men on foot, cannot in equal times, range an equal portion of the country with men on horseback.

But as the desired protectection, will be chiefly had from Infantry, and that force yet to be raised, I am fully authorised to assure you, that nearly the whole, if not the whole, of the force necessary to the defence of the frontiers of Indiana, might be obtained by enlistment of its citizens, if they could be assured, that they will not be taken from the Territory when enlisted, and if proper persons are selected as officers. If my views on this subject should meet the approbation of the Government, I have no doubt that my representations will prove themselves to have been well founded. There are many, who for the purposes of defence, will not hesitate to enlist, but who at the same time could not be induced to enter the ranks as soldiers and leave their families and property at the mercy of the savages.

With sentiments of unfeigned respect,

I am obediently your Humble St.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO JAMES MONROE

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1525]

[January 27-February 5, 1813]

THE HONB^le^ JAMES MONROE

SIR.

In my note of the 27^th^ ins^t^ I suggested the idea of rasing several companies for the defence of the frontiers of the Indi-

ana Territory, by the enlistment of some of its able bodied citizens. In addition to my former communication on this subject, I give it as my decided opinion, that a sufficient force may be raised for the purpose above mentioned, provided they be assured, that the government will not require of them any other service, than that which may be inseperable from the defence and protection of the frontiers of the said Territory. The necessary protecting force can be raised in less time, in the manner proposed, than any other, because many are already waiting for an opportunity, such as will occur, if the government shall think proper to adopt the proposed plan. Every tie which renders their homes and possessions worth defending, will conspire to produce, dispositions and actions, calculated to repel the attacks of the savages, whenever the means shall be afforded them so to do, without making sacrifices on their part, not within the power of individuals to sustain, who have settled themselves in a country quite new, and who have, with limitted funds, to maintain their families and exonerate themselves as debtors to the United States for purchases of the Publick Lands.

Should the government direct the raising of four companies of Infantry, with the assurance suggested, in addition to the one company of Rangers already allotted for the protection of the Indiana Territory, I believe they will compose under the immediate direction of a field officer, a force sufficient to protect our frontiers and prevent the citizens from fleeing to the adjoining States.[1]

As a man of bravery and integrity, qualified for the execution of the object designed, and one of our most esteemed and distinguished militia officers, I recommend James Bigger who is now a Colonel of one of the Regiments of the Indiana militia.

If my views should meet those of the Government, I hope

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[1]On February 27, 1813, Jennings issued a circular letter to his constituents announcing that four additional companies of Rangers might be raised in the Territory. Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, Vol. 2, pp. 376-77.

the earliest opportunity will be embraced, that public convenience will admit, to carry them into operation. If however, another mode shall be deemed more expedient, to provide for our frontier, a protecting force, so necessary and desirable, I beg leave to assure you, that in providing that force, the least possible delay on the part of the Government, will be highly appreciated by the citizens of Indiana.

Permit me to offer another assurance of the esteem and respect with which I am, Sir,

Very obediently your Humble Servt

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mr Monroe Acting Secretary of War . . .
[Indorsed] . . . Recd Feb 5, 1813

JENNINGS TO JAMES MONROE

[State Department, M. L., 245]

WASHINGTON CITY 27th of Febv 1813

THE HONBle JAMES MONROE
SIR.

An act of Congress having passed, authorising the President of the United States to appoint an Attorney and Marshal in each of the Territories of the United States; permit me to suggest, that an early appointment of a Marshal for the Territory of Indiana, may save the trouble of numerous applications for that office, as it is one, to which many will very probably aspire.

Permit me to recommend for the appointment of Marshal of Indiana, Doct Andrew P. Hay, of Charleston, Clark County, who is a man of education.[1]

I pledge myself, that his discharge of the duties of the said

[1]Hay, Jennings' brother-in-law, was a Kentuckian by birth, and was educated at Transylvania University before following the rest of his family to Indiana. In 1813 he was practicing medicine in Charlestown. Jennings' application on his behalf was unsuccessful, the office of Marshal for Indiana going to John Vawter. Hay received appointment as receiver at the Jeffersonville land office in 1824, and was reappointed in 1828. Morrison, *Ann Gilmore Hay*, p. 8; U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 2, p. 400; Vol. 3, pp. 370, 372, 585, 594.

office should he be appointed, will be such, as will give general satisfaction.

I am with great respect, very obediently

Your Humble St:

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO JOHN ARMSTRONG

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1526]

BROWNSVILLE Pa 22d April 1813

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Dr SIR.

Enclosed I transmit you a letter addressed to me by one of the Judges of the Genl Court of the Territory of Indiana on the subject of the Rangers authorised to be raised within and for the protection of its frontier.

In consequence of the decision of the Department of the Government over which you preside, I made a publick declaration to the citizens of Indiana, that four additional companies of Rangers, were authorised to be raised by the Genl Government within that Territory by the acceptance of Volunteers. Under that declaration Colo Bigger, one of the best militia officers, raised a company and is refused upon a tender of their services with his own. Why Genl Gibson should so act, is to me a matter of surprize. I refrain from any further comment upon the Genl's conduct at least until I shall have the pleasure to see you in person.[1]

The citizens of the Territory have sustained greater loses than than any other portion of the United State's frontier, except the little Territory of Michigan. Shall not the citizens of Indiana have as well the profit as the honor of defending themselves? After they have sustained damages essential, and after a portion of its citizens shall have rendered considerable service for considerations in no shape pecuniary, shall they be

[1]John Gibson served as secretary of Indiana Territory from its organization until it became a state. He was acting governor at different times during Governor Harrison's absences. Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana*, pp. 11-20.

rejected for the services of those who have but a partial claim to the emoluments.

Let me request your attention to the affair. The Gen[l]'s promises can have no important claims upon the Gen[l] Government for for fulfilment. My declarations were made upon, and expressly according to your own assurances.

I am with great Esteem your friend & Humble S[t]

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Inclosure]

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1527]

VINCENNES 7[th] April 1813

DEAR SIR

According to your information on the subject of rangers for this Territory Col. Bigger has taken great pains and has incurred considerable expence in raising a company and has succeeded. The company is full and have elected their officers all meritorious citizens. Col. Bigger is elected captain and has come on to this place to tender the services of the company (through Gen[l] Gibson now acting gov[r]) to the president but has been refused because Gen[l] Gibson has promised M[r] Payton from Kentucky that if he can raise a company he will be accepted and under the impression that Payton will raise a company Col. Bigger who is now ready for service is rejected there being only a vacancy for one[1]—Why conditional promises should be made to exclude actual applicants or why a resident should be postponed to a Kentuckian I can hardly tell. There is certainly as much to be expected from Col. Bigger as from any Kentuckian of them all and without detracting from the

[1]Craven Peyton was appointed ensign with the Rangers of Illinois Territory on June 5, 1812, and took part in the expedition into Illinois that autumn. Gibson gives his story of the circumstances under which Peyton's, Bigger's and other companies were offered in a letter to James Monroe, October 9, 1813. Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, Vol. 2, pp. 570-72. On April 30, 1813, Bigger received a captaincy, and his company, largely composed of citizens of Clark County, was accepted for duty. See *ibid.*, pp. 281-83, 284-86; U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 2, pp. 370, 380.

merit of Capt Payton I might say more.—Honor, interest, and the attachment he must be supposed to have to the place of his resedence all combine to impel him to diligence and activity; and in fact, I believe nothing but the love of his country could have induced him to quit his domestic employments and give up the society of his family for rough and toilsome exercises of the champ de mars. If you can render any assistance in this matter it will be an acceptable service to all your friends in this country.

The Col. has determined to send on his application immediately to the president & your interest perhaps may be useful to him.

I need not prescribe the tract you had best pursue, but will only suggest that no time is to be lost as the other company will in all probability be offered very soon.

With sentiments of respect I have the honour to be,
sir Your ob^{t} Ser^{t}

JAMES WOOD

HON,BLE JONATHAN JENNINGS ESQUIRE

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON 31st of May 1813

MY DEAR SIR

Your letter of the 22^{d} I have received. It is the first for a *long time* but I hope it will not be the *last* for a *long time*

I have the pleasure to unite with you in your congratulations upon the advantage derived & deriving to our Ann's by the journey.

I do not feel as if I deserved any gratitude from you for my attention & *trouble* as you are pleased to term it. If there be any gratitude due from either it is from me. My little Ann, with her native simplicity and candor, often has told me, in expressive terms, of your goodness towards her, and without formality, I never had a proper opportunity before to render you my acknowledgments.

That warm glow of feeling and perhaps of vanity does not now so much as formerly dictate to my pen or my actions. Although I feel the same fond affection for my relations & friends, I do not often indulge my fancy in describing it on paper.

I am happily married and can rejoice in reality that my judgment was able to controul natural disposition in the important measure of matrimony. I might have married *a name,* a *fortune,* but I have married a woman, *a very woman.* A woman of great goodness of disposition, of *common sense* and prudent. Lovely enough for me.

I shall be happy soon to enjoy the ballance of my time in a retirement where neither poverty or riches, good or bad fame shall be able to disturb, improperly, my retreat.

A patriot. What a great yet empty name?!! A Dives, How pleasing and yet how sub[t]le the idea & pursuit to equal? !!! An honest man. None more nobly good and none more really great. Except the Paul like christian.

To be happy in this world is far beyond my expectations, so much so that I scarcely wish it. To be contented is my greatest ambition

I have often wished and sometimes determined to become a christian or at least to try.[1] Perplexities on the onset assail & I have as often forgot my wishes and the past determinations. I have thought that when I shall gain my retirement I shall then be more able at least to fulfil my intentions. But poor human nature, prone to err, and too often forgetful of its duty to God and itself, follows the reflected rainbow to the loss of its substantial good. Remember me with much affection to our friends and remember, always to rank me with those who wish to be substantially and unfeignedly yours affectionately

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

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[1]This is an often repeated wish of Jennings. No record of his becoming a church member has been found.

JENNINGS TO JOHN ARMSTRONG

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1529]

REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER 1st of June 1813

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

SIR.

I beg leave, to call your attention, in a manner more formal, to the subject upon which, I had a short conversation with you this morning.

I find by enquiries answered me from the Adjutant General's office, that the Rangers allowed to be raised in the Indiana Territory are not as yet obtained. Owing to local circumstances, the eastern part of the Territory have not participated in raising any portion of the Rangers and now complain, of being exposed to the Indians, under the idea that the companies are completed. To give them an opportunity with others to protect themselves, I propose the plan of appointing a Captain and let the other officers of the company be chosen by the members of it, under the inspection of the Captain, in such manner as the Secretary of [War] shall prescribe.

Frederick Shoults, whom I recommend for that Captaincy, is a man, who as a Majr of two Volunteer companies for their own peculiar defence, acquited himself to the satisfaction entirely of the three Eastern Counties of the Territory.[1] He has been recommended by almost all the militia officers, as well as other citizens of the Territory, upon whom I can rely.

I am most respectfully yours very obediently

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]During a recess of the Senate, Shoults (Shoultz, Shultz), of Franklin County, was appointed captain of a company of Rangers, ranking from May 20, 1813. The nomination was received by the Senate on June 18, 1813, and accepted on July 1. No subordinate officers were named. Whether the appointment was made by the president as a result of earlier recommendation by Jennings or through other influences does not appear. Apparently Jennings, on June 1, did not know the appointment had been made. U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 2, pp. 370, 380; Reifel, August J., *History of Franklin County, Indiana . . .*, p. 278 (Indianapolis, 1915).

JENNINGS TO JOHN ARMSTRONG

[Supplementary Calendar, War Department, L. R., S. W., 1530]

15th of June 1813

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

SIR

I have this morning received a letter from Captain Dunn of the Rangers, who informs me that by the same mail he has forwarded a report of his company to the War Department.[1]

He informs me that his company is much in need of money, and wishes if convenient, that they may receive their pay at Madison in the County of Jefferson, Indiana Territory.

I have likewise received a letter from a gentleman of respectability and known to Mr Griffin & Mr Finley of the House, informing me that Genl Harrison has ordered a Lieutenants command, from the western frontier of the Territory, of the Rangers, to convey some of his personal property from Vincennes to Cincinnati, which he had left at the first mentioned place since last August.

How well such services may comport with the duty of a soldier I am not to decide, but when depradations are daily committed on that frontier by the savages, I cannot reconcile the alledged facts, to that protection intended to be afforded us by the general government, and to me they are irreconcileable to the high duties of a commanding general.

I hope that my duty to the Territory which I am here to represent, will furnish a justification for my interference, while I must express my confidence, that the Secretary for the Department of War, will not suffer a transaction of the character I have described, to pass, by him unnoticed.

I am, with the highest respect

Yours very obedently

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Genl John Armstrong Secretary of War

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[1]Williamson Dunn, of Madison, was appointed to a captaincy April 12, 1813. For the muster roll of his company, see Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of Harrison,* Vol. 2, pp. 286-87.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON 19th of June 1813

Dr SIR.

I have received your of the 15th instant and enclosed the letters as desired instantly. They will reach Lynchburgh on the 24th instant. I told sister before I left Lynchburgh, that I would furnish her with money if she wanted any. She then gave me to understand that she did not expect to want any before she commenced her journey to Washington Pa.

Her expected journey to Richmond had caused her to want money, but by a letter I yesterday received, they have declined their journey to Richmond.

Rest assured I will furnish her with what sums she may want, and will enclose her by the next mail and from time to [time to] satisfy her wants.

If an oppertunity offers, it would oblige me if you would pay ten dollars to our step-mother. I had not money to leave her for the purpose of harvesting and I expect she will want before I can return.

I am in tolerable health and must conclude else my letter will be delayed until next mail. I am yours very sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO ANN JENNINGS MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 4th of July 1813

Dr SISTER.

I received your friendly letter of the 23d of last month. I would advise you to summons all possible fortitude under your afflictions. If you despond, you may prevent the success of the means used for your recovery.

I am sure my only sister does not require of her brother any invitation to address him by letter. She must be well convinced that I am at all times happy to hear from her.

I will attend to your several requests in due time. I have nothing to relate that could interest you, only to urge you to lay up a sufficient stock of *spirits,* to bear you again over the mountain.

More will be required, and more you must have to stand the heat and fatigue which we shall have to undergo.

To endeavour to be reconciled, to our own situation, is not only a christian grace, but the advice of one of the greatest men of his day.

I am your Brother affectionately

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mrs. Ann Mitchell Lynchburgh, Virginia.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 10th of January 1814

Dr SIR

I am much obliged to you for your attention to my Ann and for your good service, I consider myself under an obligation. I have made the application for the information you desired with respect to applicants for revenue officers from your County, but was answered that such information cannot be given.

Lyle does not say much about the appointment of Morgan and I have no doubt he will pass the Senate.[1] I have not even read Giles statements and therefore cannot give you any opinion having not formed one for myself.[2]

We have no news bad unpleasant, but you I trust will not let Armstrong go too soon

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[1]There was a George Morgan living in Washington County, Pennsylvania, who was appointed assessor and collector of direct taxes and internal revenue for the sixteenth collection district of Pennsylvania on January 21, 1814. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, Pennsylvania* . . ., p. 221 (Chicago, 1893); U. S. Senate *Executive Journal,* Vol. 3, pp. 456, 460.

[2]Jennings probably refers to the series of letters being written by William B. Giles, a senator from Virginia, "To the People of Virginia," in which he criticized the administration of President Madison. See *Niles' Weekly Register,* Vol. 51, pp. 241-44, 276-77, 289-93, 340-42, 385-91 for the letters and comment upon them.

Every thing interesting you can have in detail from the News Papers, more correctly than I can give you.

I am yours sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Dr. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO ROBERT BRENT

[*Western Sun,* April 16, 1814]

WASHINGTON CITY, 15th March, 1814.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U. S.

THE PAYMASTER GENERAL OF THE U. S. ARMY,

SIR—The committee appointed by this house on the militia laws, to whom was referred the memorial of the legislature of the Indiana territory, praying compensation for the militia who have been called into the service of the U. States, for the protection of the frontiers of said territory, have reported—"that the existing laws authorise payment to be made in every case, where the service shall have been recognized and sanctioned by the president of the U. States. That no evidence is submitted of the persormance of any service which has not been so recognized and sanctioned; and that legislative provision is not necessary on the subject of the said memorial."

This being the case, I beg leave to address you on the subject, in behalf of those citizens of Indiana, who, I am confident, have not as yet received any compensation, for services long since rendered, Whatever may be the difference of opinion with regard to the time for which they are entitled to compensation, I conceive that one leading principle should govern, viz. that they are entitled to receive pay from the time when they were called into service by the acting governor, to the time when they were by him discharged. The militia, when called into actual service, are subject to the same rules and discipline with the regular army. It would be therefore, an extreme hard case to decide, that the militia man, when called into actual service, entirely subject to military law, shall not be paid

when absent on furlough, merely because he is a militia-man altho' the soldier in the regular army, invariably receives his pay, without regard to the circumstance of his having been furloughed for one day or 30 days. If the acting governor of Indiana, or any person under him, has negligently or otherwise, exercised their power with regard to the late calls upon the militia, surely the citizens of the territory should not become the sufferers. If the citizens of Indiana have at any time, been unnecessarily called into actual service, or unnecessarily detained after being thus called into service, in either case, it was the act of the immediate agent of the general government, and of course the government should be responsible. The citizens were bound to attend the call of the territorial executive, and in their behalf I do most earnestly solicit, that they may be fully compensated, and that you will not permit so many innocent men to suffer, by refusing to pay them, on account of the misconduct or incapacity of those individuals who exercised the power.

The memorial of the legislature which has been before you, will sufficiantly assure you, of the loss they have very generally sustained, by being prevented, by the calls to perform militia duty, from attending to their agricultural pursuits, at those seasons of the year, when the attention of the farmer is indispensible.

I feel confident of the justice of their claim, and while I am their representative, I cannot cease my exertions, until it shall be fully satisfied. Believing, however, that you are disposed to do justice to individuals as well as the government, I cannot but expect, that you will issue an order for their payment, as speedily as the pressure of your official duties will permit.[1]—With very great respect, I am, &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[1]"The paymaster general, not feeling himself at liberty to act finally on this subject without consulting the secretary at war, laid the whole subject before him, together with the foregoing letter. Upon which letter, the secretary of war, made the following order—'Pay this militia on the pay abstract of captain Whitlock, marked No. 2.'" *Western Sun*, April 16, 1814.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 24th of March 1814

MY DEAR SIR.

I have just received a letter from Brookville I. T. in which my correspondent states that, they are from $150. to $25. per lot, but rising in value. Lands near the Town are high and some adjoining it is selling at $50 per acre. What say you will you go thither?

When I inform Mrs Jennings of the time to send my horses to Somerset Pa. I shall write by the way of your Town, and I wish you to be particular for me to have her letters forward by the earliest and first possible mail to Mirrits Town. Dont forget, do you hear me?

What shall [I] write you more? I have got nothing to write and if I had you *hardly* deserve to hear from me. Can you recollect when you last wrote me?

The great ABNER LACOCK[1] in capital letters is no much nor do I believe him to be an honest man. If you will remind me when I see you I will give you of him, the relation of a curious fact. No news. My love to Sister & friend and for yourself accept my regard & esteem. Adieu.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Dr. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO THOMAS POSEY
[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 22d of Sepr 1814

Dr SIR.

I have to trouble you to inform me whether any muster Roll has been forwarded to the Executive Department of the Territorial Government, of services rendered by Capt William Hole-

[1]Lacock was a representative and later a senator from Pennsylvania. He was born in Washington County and served several terms in the state legislature.

man and his company of Wayne County, during the Autumn previous to your appointment as Govenor.[1]

General Gibson may be able to say whether or not.

The City presents a gloomy spectacle. The splendid edifices which lately, so highly adorned this place, now present the most melancholy aspect.[2]

We have no recent news, later than our triumph on Lake Champlain. Report says, that dispatches are on their way from the Prince Regent to the President of the U. S.

Very respectfully yours obediently

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] His Excellency Thomas Posey Esq. Jeffersonville, Ind. Territory

JENNINGS TO JAMES MONROE

[Copy in Indiana State Library]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
11th of October 1814.

SIR

Under the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled "An "Anct authorising the President of the United States to raise certain companies of Rangers for the protection of the frontiers of the United States," Approved the 2d of January 1812, and other acts of similar character; four of those companies of Rangers were raised in the Territory of Indiana.

During the Spring of 1813 they were brought into publick service as mounted men, and as such continued therein, until last winter, when they were ordered to be dismounted and serve on foot, The effects of this order on those men were peculiarly hard, many had purchased horses upon the faith of receiving pay as mounted men to enable them to enter into the

[1]Captain Holeman's company served from November 28, 1812, to February 28, 1813. The muster roll was certified by Governor Posey on January 28, 1815, but payment was not received until January, 1818. Muster, Pay, and Receipt Rolls, War of 1812, pp. 576-78 (Photostatic copies in the Indiana State Library).

[2]The British raided Washington and burned many of the public buildings on August 24 and 25.

ranging service, But on being dismounted their wages were curtailed, their horses became items of expence, without the possibility of disposing of them, but with a loss equal or nearly so, to the expences incured in their sustenance,

The act above recited, provides for their serving either as mounted men or infantry, but to me it appears, that as they were raised as mounted men, it was not intended by the act of Congress alluded to, or by the executive government after having made its selection that they should be raised as mounted men; that they should be harrassed with orders so injurious to them as were those which dismounted them,

To another circumstance connected with this subject, I beg leave to call your early attention, Col. Russell of the 7th Regiment,[1] in February or March last, by order of General Harrison, suspended several of those companies of Rangers from service, Shortly after this order was carried into effect information was received that the Indians had attacked the frontiers, for the protection of which, those Rangers were more particularly intended, The order was therefore countermanded and those companies were again brought into the service of the U. States, If those men had been actually discharged, they could not again have been called into service without their renewed consent or reinlistment, indeed not a solitary man of them received any written evidence of their discharge from the publick service.

Under these circumstances, the District Paymaster, has not felt himself entirely at liberty to pay those men for the time elapsed, from their being suspended from, to the time when they were again ordered into the publick service, In consequence of the obedience of those men to the countermanding order, which recaled them into the publick service, many were prevented, measurably or entirely, from making their spring

[1]Colonel William Russell commanded the Seventh United States Regiment. During July of 1813 he led an expedition against the Indians in and around the mouth of the Mississinewa River. Heitman (ed.), *Historical Register,* Vol. 1, p. 854; Dillon, John B., *A History of Indiana from its Earliest Exploration by Europeans to the Close of the Territorial Government, in 1816* . . ., pp. 520-27 (Indianapolis, 1859).

crops, upon which, generally, they depended for support for themselves & families.

I must therefore urge that those men may obtain that redress to which they are so justly entitled as soon as may be,—

I am Sir with very great respect,

Yours obediently,

Jonathan Jennings

[Addressed:] The Honble James Monroe Secretary of War,

[Indorsed:]

Docketed,—

11. Oct. 1814,—J. Jennings, Esq. complains that certain Comps of rangers after being mounted were directed to be dismounted & paid as infantry—and that others were suspended from service, afterwards called on & cannot get paid for intermediate time,

(answered)

Recd Oct 1814

Jennings to David G. Mitchell

[English Collection]

Washington City Dec^{r} 12th 1814

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the first inst: I have received and with you I agree that it is a long time since I have heard from you ere this. The miseries of my friends I like to know and feel although the effects are entirely negative so far as happiness or enjoyment is to be derived from that scourse.

I never will suffer myself to believe that you measure me by your letters either in length or numbers. I have myself hardly time to write a line to a friend and I have been a very ill with the Jaundice of which I am but partially recovered. Politicks are noisy deceptive subjects, yet every man for himself at least ought to consider himself the guardian of his political safety, having a common share in the great fund of national prosperity or its reverse.

We are in a shameful wretched state. What more could I say, more I ought not to say.

My love to Sister and believe me every yours affectionately.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO EDITOR OF WESTERN EAGLE[1]

[Reprinted in *Western Sun,* January 6, 1816]

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 5 1815.

DEAR SIR.

For the gratification of those who are interested, in particular, I wish to inform those Rangers who have not been paid for their services, that the Paymaster General of the United States army, has this morning assured me, that means will be taken to pay them, without delay so soon as Congress can by law appropriaet monies for that purpose, which will shortly take place.

I am very respectfully yours,

J. JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO STEPHEN PLEASONTON

[State Department, M. L., 245]

HOUSE REPS 26th Decr 1815

Mr PLEASONTON

SIR.

I enclose you an account of the Editor of the Western Eagle, of Indiana Territory, for publishing the laws of the U. States, passed at the Session of Congress in the years 1814 & 1815.

Will you be so good as to put it in the proper medium for payment.

Yours very respectfully &c

JONATHAN JENNINGS

acct sent to the Treasury 28 Decr 1815

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[1] William Hendricks.

JENNINGS TO EDITOR OF WESTERN SUN

[*Western Sun,* March 2, 1816]

CITY OF WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 1816

. . . . . .

Permit me through the medium of your paper to state, that I have now the pleasure to inform those citizens of Indiana who have rendered services in the militia of the territory, that those services have been recognized by the secretary of war in behalf of the president of the U. States, and that they will be paid as soon as practicable.

The demands upon the government of the U. States which remain unsatisfied are numerous. The citizens of Indiana, with others, will necessarily have to add a little further patience to that which they have heretofore exercised towards the U. States government. They will be paid through the hands of capt. Whitlock,[1] of Vincennes, so soon as the pay master general shall have it in his power to put the requisite funds under the controul of the former. The pay master general, directs that capt. Whitlock, when he shall have funds with which to make payment to the militia of Indiana, "to measure all claims by the laws, the rules and regulations which were in force at the time the service was performed; and in all cases where the *certificate on honor* of an officer was requisite to substantiate a claim, to have his *oath* substituted in lieu thereof."

. . . . . .

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY March 26th 1816

D. SIR.

I have necociated the two hundred & twenty five dollars

[1]Ambrose Whitlock served as sergeant of the First Infantry of the United States from 1796 to 1800, and became successively second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, and deputy paymaster-general. He founded the city of Crawfordsville and was first receiver of the government land office there. Heitman, *Historical Register,* Vol. 1, p. 1030; *History of Montgomery County, Indiana, with Personal Sketches of Representative Citizens,* Vol. 1, pp. 574-76 (Indianapolis, no date).

and sent the sum to O. Jennings and have forwarded the letter to him. I expect in a day or two [to] get the money from Cap[t] Morrow which when re[cei]ved shall be properly disposed of.

Some time since I sent you a volume in the form of a Pamphlet, by a gentleman who travelled from here to Ohio and stoped with you in Washington and as I directed him, left the pamphlet with you. Can you tell me where it is? It consists of letters from different generals in the U. S. army to the then Secretary of War, and from the Secretary of War to those Generals.

I have but little time to write and am yours sincerely.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Norfolk Virginia

JENNINGS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

[*Western Sun*, May 11, 1816]

WASHINGTON CITY, April 16th 1816

FELLOW CITIZENS,

The present session of Congress will shortly be closed. The subjects of its deliberations have been as interesting, as they were various. The whole system of the revenue of the United States has been modified to suit the present situation of the country. The tax on domestic manufactories has been entirely repealed, except on the distillation of spirituous liquors, which has been very much reduced. The direct tax has been reduced from six to three millions of dollars, in the U. States, and in all probability, at the next session of Congress, will be still more reduced, if not entirely repealed.

The act for the relief of certain settlers on the public lands from the orders of a late proclamation of the President of the U. States, has passed some time since.[1]

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[1]On December 15, 1815, President Madison, because it had been represented that "many uninformed or evil-disposed persons" had taken possession of or settled on public lands, with no recognition or confirmation of their claims, issued a proclamation ordering the removal of all such persons by March 10, 1816. The relief act mentioned by Jen-

The act to enable the people of Indiana to form a constitution and state government has passed both Houses of Congress, and will undoubt[ed]ly receive the President's signature. The act fixes the second Monday of May next, for the election of members of the convention in the several counties. Each county has the number of members to elect, as were allotted to each by the Territorial Legislature except the county of Harrison.[1] —Every citizen qualified to vote for members of the Territorial Legislature is qualified to vote for members of the convention, and the second Monday of June next is fixed by the act for the meeting of the convention when elected at the seat of Government. The times fixed for the election and meeting of the convention, are as well suited to every interest and circumstance connected with the proposed important change of our form of government as I was enabled to select when every consideration was duly weighed, and I trust will be so considered when the convention shall act officially on the subject.[2] With regard to the grants and conditions contained in this act, the convention when met will be able to form a correct estimate. Allow me,

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nings provided that any persons who had taken possession of land before February 1, 1816, be permitted to remain upon proper application to a register, recorder, or marshal; not more than 320 acres might be claimed by one applicant; should the lands be sold, possession must be granted quietly. Right to operate any salt spring or lead mine on such lands was withheld. Richardson, James D. (comp.), *Messages and Papers of the Presidents* . . ., Vol. 2, pp. 557-58 (Bureau of National Literature, Inc., New York, 20 vols., 1897-1917); United States, *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 3, pp. 260-61.

[1]Harrison County was apportioned five delegates, whereas the memorial of the territorial legislature had stipulated four. Kettleborough, Charles, *Constitution Making in Indiana* . . ., Vol. 1, pp. 72, 74 (Indianapolis, 1916). Mr. Kettleborough states that this increase was apparently made in response to a memorial communicated by Daniel C. Lane and Patrick Shields, both citizens of Harrison County. *Ibid.*, p. 73.

[2]May 13 was set as the day for electing the delegates and June 10 for the convention to meet. Jennings was criticized for not having allowed for more time before the election and between the election and meeting of the convention. The Enabling Act was not published in the Territory until May 3 so that not much time was given for the people to think about whom they should choose for delegates and not much time for the delegates to prepare for their duty. On the other hand, passage of the Enabling Act had been for some time a foregone conclusion, so that people should have been prepared for statehood. Kettleborough, *Constitution Making in Indiana,* Vol. 1, pp. xvi-xvii.

however to state that they are at least as advantageous if not more so, than those granted to any other Territory on similar occasions.

A Bill has passed the House of Representatives and will no doubt pass the Senate confirming the titles of those persons who purchased lands from the board of trustees for the Vincennes University.

An act has passed allowing claimants to land in the District of Vincennes a further time to locate their claims.

The claims for militia services, rendered by citizens of the Territory have been recognized by the Secretary of War, on the part of the U. States and will be paid with as little delay as possible, when the extent of those services shall be legally established, The extraordinary circumstances which have transpired in relation to those claims have very much embarrassed and delayed their final adjustment. In the first place the muster rolls for these services were not forwarded for payment until nearly one year had elapsed after the services were rendered. In the next place, Cols. McFarland & Evans,[1] when mustering their field & staff officers mustered themselves for payment as Colonels in actual service when 28 days of the same time they were actually sitting members of the Territorial Legislature and received their pay as such; and they severally on the face of their muster rolls, respectively certify these muster Rolls of their field & staff, on honour, to be correct.

This conduct on the part of those officers, has been reprobated by every officer of the General government whose duty it has been to act on those muster Rolls; and the Paymaster-general has directed Captain Whitlock, when paying these militia, "to measure all claims by the laws, the rules and the regulations which were in force at the time the service was performed; and in all cases where the certificate on honour of any officer was requisite to substantiate a claim, to have his oath substituted in lieu thereof.

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[1]Colonels William McFarland of Lexington, Indiana, and Robert Evans for whom Evansville was named.

Some new Post routes will be established and one so altered as to pass by way of Harmony from Vincennes to Shawnee-Town.

Very respectfully,
I am very obediently yours,
JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO JAMES MADISON
[State Department, M. L., 253]

CHARLESTON I. T. July 6th 1816

HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES MADISON.

SIR.

I am directed to forward to you, the enclosed ordinance, lately ordained by the Convention of Indiana, which is conformable to the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory, to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states."[1]

With sentiments of very great respect.
I have the honour to be,
Yours obediently
JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO ROBERT A. NEW[2]
[English Collection]

NEAR CHARLESTON 7th of Feby 1817

Dr SIR.

The laws lately printed, in relation to the militia, are the

[1]The ordinance referred to is printed in Kettleborough, *Constitution Making in Indiana,* Vol. 1, p. 82.

[2]Following the formation of the new state government, Jennings was elected the first governor and took the oath of office on November 7, 1816. New was elected first secretary of state and served until 1825. Before moving to Harrison County he had been a resident of Jeffersonville and together with Davis Floyd had helped Aaron Burr procure supplies and recruits for his expedition to the West in 1806. Roose, William H., *Indiana's Birthplace. A History of Harrison County, Indiana,* pp. 30, 51 (New Albany, Ind., 1911); Esarey, Logan, *A History of Indiana,* Vol. 1, p. 178 (Fort Wayne, 1924).

only ones, which I am dericted to see to their distribution so far as I can recollect. Be so good as to distribute them to the Cols. of the several Regiments of the state, directed to them or to the Clerks of the circuit Courts in their respective Counties. They may be mailed as *sheets*. Please to receive and distribute them as equally as possible. As to the pay I shall be in Corydon shortly, but it strikes me that the subject of *Pay,* is to be decided on by yourself, the Auditor & Treasurer.

Be so good as to make out and sign and forward by the bearer, a Commission for William Prince as President of the first judicial Circuit, to hold his office until the next Session of the General Assembly and until his Successor be appointed & qualified.

A Commission also for John Meek, of Jefferson C° as Notary Publick. For this last an application has been made, I believe the Territorial Statute yet in force authorizes the appointment by me though I have not the law

Please send me one Copy of the Militia law by the bearer, S. K. Jennings my nephew.

Commissions may be printed blank for, Judges, Clerks and Recorders. Would not one form answer for all. The form may be simple viz, "Govenor &C hand and do by the[se] presents, Commission you the said A. B. (Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of ———) or Recorder of the County of ——— or associate judge of the Circuit Court for the County of ———") to hold thier offices, respectively for seven years if they shall so long behaved well. The Constitution requires simply, that I shall as Govenor Commission &C any reference to election &C may be viewed as wholly unnecessary, The record being in the Office of State, in case of an election.

Let me know how soon after the day of return to the Office of State, which will be on the 17th inst: you will have those commissions ready for signing

I am with respect & esteem your friend

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Robert A. New, sect. of State, Corydon, Ind.

JENNINGS TO ROBERT A. NEW

[English Collection]

NEAR CHARLESTON Feb^{y} 10th 1817

D^{r} SIR.

Yours of the 8th I have received by my nephew, to whom I read part of your, who replied "that apology was not necessary & that he could not expect any thing, as your circumstances then were.

The residue of the militia laws, you may send in such way and in such manner and at such time as shall be thought most elegible by you.

In relation to the Seal, I thought I had written, but allow me to ask of you the favour to procure a new one, or cause the old one to be defaced & beatin down and re-engraved, if the old one will not suit; with such device as you may deem proper, which I am willing to trust to your judgment & taste.[1]

Ask Doc^{r} Lilley, if he has not forwarded for me, a check from the Treasurer, on the Cashier of the Bank of Vincennes, to do so by the next mail, with a request, that he would give in return a draft on the Louisville Bank.[2] Ask the Doc^{r} to

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[1]The Constitution of 1816 provided for a state seal but did not designate the design. An act of the first General Assembly authorized the governor to provide a seal but neither this law nor any subsequent one set forth a design. However, during the debates in the legislature a description of the contemplated seal was given. It provided for "a forest and a woodman felling a tree, a Buffaloe leaving the forest and fleeing through a plain to a distant forest and the Sun sitting in the west with the word Indiana." Imprints of similar seals date back to 1802, if not earlier, which indicates that the state seal was only an adaptation from that used in territorial days. Even today there is no official seal; as a result, the details of the design have varied at different times and in different executive offices, although the general outline as described in the report of the first General Assembly has remained the same. *House Journal,* 1816-17, p. 36; *Laws of Indiana,* 1816-17, pp. 218-19. Dunn, Jacob P., *Slavery Petitions and Papers,* p. 468 (*Indiana Historical Society Publications,* Vol. 2, No. 12, Indianapolis, 1894); *Yearbook of the State of Indiana,* 1919, p. 952.

[2]William H. Lilly was the first state auditor. He served in that capacity from 1816 until his death in 1828. Besides taking care of his official duties he was a practicing physician and served as treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Masonry, 1820-25. Dunn, Jacob P., *Indiana and Indianans,* Vol. 1, p. 339 (Chicago and New York, 1919); McDonald, Daniel, *A History of Freemasonry in Indiana from 1806 to 1898,* p. 418 (Indianapolis, 1898).

pay the postage and I will return it him on my arrival.

I am D Sir, your friend.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Robert A. New Esq. Corydon, Ind.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

NEAR CHARLESTON March 17th 1817

Dr SIR.

I received a few days ago your letter making enquiry with regard to the prospect of Bookselling in this State and the Territory of Illinois. It cannot be good in Illinois, and I am disposed to think it would not be a *good* business in this State, though probably some would sell at Vincennes and the surrounding country. In Vincennes however there are several physicians, some only, as I understand, of them, are regularly bred.

I hardly know what to advise, as you, like Brother S. K. Jennings, are very variant in your determinations. Books is generally, I believe wanted in the State, but we are not many of us ready to buy, and I am not a competent judge to say whether or not bookselling may be profitable. It would very much depend on the price as there are in Louisville Ky, and Cincinnati O, establishments to whence most merchants resort for the small quan[tities] which they purchase periodically.

[Ms. torn] and pleasing are prospects which youthf[ul Ms. torn] us; but rugged and difficult are the p[aths] through which our phantoms lead us in the mazes of life and its turmoils and disappointments.

I hold an office, considered honourable, but I know it to be capable of yielding but little satisfaction.

I will endeavour to make enquiry and write you again, at least, if favourable information should be received.

The woods of Indiana, would in retirement, be pleasant to me even in an hut, but not so to every man Tell Sister Ann, that unless you remove to this country I never more shall

expect to see her. An unpleasant thought. She was the constant companion of my childhood for many years, and to me, is, very, very dear.

How mysterious are the events of time under the guidance of an all wise beneficent providence. The great empheron of creation, man, expects much and realizes little in this life but anxiety, pain and fatigue.

Farewell; and tell Sister that Ann joins me in much to her, and for yourself accept our best wishes and kindest remembrance.

Jacob is quite hearty and is to be remembered to his Sister.[1]

I am your friend

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Harrisburgh, Penna.

JENNINGS TO ROBERT A. NEW

[English Collection]

VINCENNES July 1st 1817

Dr SIR.

Be so good as to as to issue a Proclamation, directed to the Sheriff of the County of Jefferson, directing him to cause to be holden on the first Monday of August next (the day of the next general election) an election for Clerk and Recorder of the said County of Jefferson. To which Proclamation you will please sign my name.

Col: Vawter wishes the commissions forwarded for militia officers for the County of Jennings, if they are executed. Send them to Madison.

If there are any commissions for the West which require my signature, please forward them by the return mail, directed

[1]Jacob was the orphan son of Jonathan Jennings' brother Ebenezer. When he was ten years old he was placed under the care of his uncle Jonathan. He graduated from Washington College in Pennsylvania and studied law with his uncle. His sister Maria was taken care of in the Mitchell home. Jennings, *Genealogical History of the Jennings Families,* Vol. 2, pp. 194, 214, 219.

to me, and the care of Doc. Elias M^cNamee.[1] You may send them by the Post rider unsealed which will save the Postage. If you do not send them by the return mail of the 13th or 14 inst: you will please not send them as I shall as soon as possible thereafter be at Corydon.

I am your friend & Humble St.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

COL. R. A. NEW

[Addressed:] Col. Robert A. New Corydon, Ind.

JENNINGS TO ROBERT A. NEW

[English Collection]

VINCENNES July 17th 1817

D^r SIR.

I am detained here, contrary to my expectations, by the sickness of M^rs Jennings, and have therefore to solicit you to forward to me at this place, in the mode you did lately, all commissions for the West, which are or should be executed on your part.

Permit me to mention those of two magistrates in the County of Sullivan. One named Thompson and the other not recollected. Each had ten votes each. Also the returns of General Officers have went on some time since and some further returns of militia elections from Gibson County.

The bearer, M^r Beatty, a gentleman of the Bar, is worthy of any attention you may render him.

Yours Sincerely,

JONATHAN JENNINGS

COL. R. A. NEW

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[1]Dr. Elias McNamee was a prominent physician in Vincennes, and a political supporter of Jennings. At the time of the election for territorial delegate in 1809, McNamee wrote a number of articles against Randolph, Jennings' opponent. As a result Randolph challenged him to a duel, but being a Quaker, McNamee refused to fight. He was a candidate for the United States Senate in 1816, a director of the Vincennes bank, and trustee of both the town of Vincennes and Vincennes University. Dunn, Jacob P., *Indiana. A Redemption from Slavery*, pp. 399-400 (Boston and New York, 1905); *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 5, p. 1 ff; Vol. 6, pp. 153, 156; Vol. 9, p. 4; Vol. 20, p. 140.

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

[Senate File Cases, 16th Congress, 439, 440]

CORYDON, Sept^{r} 9th 1817

THE HONB^{le}
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SIR

I have herewith the honor of submitting a report from the Secretary of State for Indiana relative to the regulations and Standards for weights and measures in this state in conformity to a Resolution of the Senate of the U. States of the 3^{d} of March last.

Absence from the seat of Government of our state prevented an earlier compliance with your request.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your ob^{t} S^{t}

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Inclosure]

SECRETARY OF STATES OFFICE
CORYDON

The Secretary of State to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the United States of March 3^{d} 1817 requiring a statement relative to the regulations and standards for weights and measures in the several states &c. has the honor to submit the following Report containing the regulations and standards for weights and measures, as used and now in force in the State of Indiana.

One measure of one foot, or twelve inches. English measure so called, also one measure of three feet or thirty six Inches English measure as aforesaid Also one half bushel measure for dry measure which shall contain one thousand seventy five and one fifth solid inches, also one gallon measure which shall contain two hundred and thirty one solid inches, which measures are to be of wood or any metal the court may think proper Also one set of weights commonly called Avoirdupoise weight

R A. NEW *Secy*

JENNINGS TO JOHN C. CALHOUN

[War Department, Mails and Files Division, L. R., 195]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
CORYDON January 21st 1818

HONBle JOHN C. CALHOUN
SIR.

I have the honour, herewith to transmit to the Department of War, a report from the Adjutant General's office, relative to the militia force of the State of Indiana.

Circumstances, unavoidable, have rendered it impracticable to afford the information required by the department of War at an earlier period.

With great respect, Sir,
Yours &C
JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Inclosure]

ADJt GENLS OFFICE
CORYDON Jany 20th 1818

SIR,

I have the honor to hand to your Excellency a consolidated Return of the Militia, prepared from the Reports of the several Brigades, which shews its strength and its organization under the existing laws, in pursuance of a requisition from the Dept of War and in compliance with a resolution of the U. S. Senate, at the last Session. No Report has been received from the first Brigade which may be estimated at 2000 men. Two Regiments of at least 500 each have not been reported besides several companies in various sections of the State amounting to 500 and upwards. The Total of the Return is 11,671 which together with the Brigade Regts and companies not heard from and which are estimated from correct data makes the whole number of Militia in this State on the 1st Octr 1817 more than 15,000. This calculation it is believed falls short of the actual number at that date.

The late period at which the laws of the last General Assembly were published, the election of so many officers, the making new Regiments, Brigades and Devisions & commissioning persons elected have contributed to delay this Return, to which causes may also be added, the limited arrangement of the mails during the last year which very much retarded the forwarding commissions and orders from this office and the circulation of forms &c among the several Regiments.

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. MACDONALD *Ass[t] a. g.*
for S. RANNEY
ag[t] g[l] I. M.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

CORYDON May 28th 1818

DR. D. G. MITCHELL
DR. SIR.

Your letter by M[r] Kintner I have received, and give you an immediate answer. I am generally in the habit of giving a reply to every communication I receive, though sometimes business may prevent, and often the mail fails to deliver them.

I have not forgotten you, notwithstanding your complaint of long silence. I have [illegible] opinion [illegible] for the purpose of procuring for you the [position] of Reg[istrar] of the Land office at St Genevieve in the Missouri Ty some forty or fifty miles below St. Louis. Should you deem it expedient to accept it, provided it may be procured, you will please inform me some time this summer. This [There is] some opening for a Lawyer in this State and also at St. Genevieve. Deliberate and decide for yourself. The most certain means of a competency in life is by sure, even it be also by tardy income, acquired only by perseverance and well timed enterprize.

My situation is not very pleasant. I am too young for the situation I occupy. It excites too much jealousy. Ann has enjoyed very imperfect health and also suffered considerable

pain. She is at present tolerable and joins me in kind remembrances of you and love to Sister Ann

Jacob is going to grammar school and learns aptly.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature mutilated]

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Washington, Penna.

JENNINGS TO JOSIAH MEIGS

[General Land Office, M. L. R., Vol. 1, p. 170]

CORYDON, Dec^{r} 28th 1818

THE HONB^{le} JOSIAH MEIGS

SIR

I have been informed, that the surveys in the fourth Range West, and Township Nine North in the Vincennes District have run across the West Branch of White river, and thus the bed of the river will be sold to individuals and the navigation impeded.

It must have been through ignorance or carelessness of the Surveyor as the stream is one of those which are declared to be highways, and purchasers will with great reluctance yield up that for which they may or have paid their money.

I beg your early attention to this subject, as it is not unlikely that our permanent seat of Government will be situated ere long on this stream. With great respect Sir,

your obt: Servt.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] The Honb^{le} Josiah Meigs Esquire Commissioner of the General L. Office Washington City

[Indorsed:] Gov^{r} Jennings re navigable waters in Ind^{a} Ans^{d} wrote to Regis^{r} at Vincennes 14 Jan 1819

JENNINGS TO ETHAN A. BROWN

[Jennings Collection, Indiana State Library]

BROOKVILLE IND^{a} May 31st 1819

HIS EXCELLENCY ETHAN A. BROWN

SIR.

An occasional visit to this place, will be an apology for mak-

ing a request, though unofficial, for the delivery to Gen[l] Robert Hanna, Sheriff of Franklin County Ind[a], a certain Green B. League, alias William Jackson, who has been indicted for Bigamy in the Franklin Circuit Court in this state, who is said to be confined in the jail of Hamilton County Ohio.

The circumstances attending the case, are of a character, the most delicate and interesting to one of our most respectable and best citizens, and it will be very gratefully received if you will give the necessary authority to remove him to this county for trial. For the particulars, if necessary, I beg leave to refer you to Gen[l] Hanna the bearer, whose statements may be relied on most implicity.[1]

Most respectfully your
obedient St.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] His Excellency Ethan A. Brown Govenor of the State of Ohio

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

[State Department, M. L., 374]

CORYDON March 10[th] 1820

THE HONB[le] JOHN Q. ADAMS
SIR

Herewith I transmit a copy of a correspondence between the Govenor of Kentucky and myself, in relation to a demand made for certain persons, fugitives from the justice of this state, together with an authenticated copy of the indictment upon which those citizens of Kentucky were demanded.

From the documents it will be perceived that His Excellency the Acting Govenor of Kentucky has declined a compliance with a request so entirely reasonable and equally indispensible to the execution of the laws of this state.

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[1]Hanna, a prominent resident of Brookville, served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1816 and, in 1831, was appointed to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of James Noble.

Permit me to request that the documents may be submitted for the consideration of the President of the United.[1]

Copies of the laws of this state, of a general nature, I have directed to be forwarded according to your request

I have the honour to be most respectfully
Your obt: Servant
JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO EDWARD TIFFIN

[General Land Office, S. G., L. R., Vol. 9, p. 215]

CORYDON April 25th 1820

THE HONBle EDWARD TIFFIN
Dr SIR.

Your favour of the 12th inst: has just been received, and for which I sincerely thank you. Your proposition to designate two of your deputies will answer every desirable object on this point and will greatly oblige the state. The 22 of next month the Commissioners appointed meet at William Conners on White River to select the contemplated scite for our government. Would you feel yourself at liberty to allow the 2560 acres granted for this purpose to the state to be surveyed by any other lines than those directed to the Cardinal points if so, you can make it known to your deputies.[2]

Yours with great respect & esteem
JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]The grand jury of Harrison County had indicted Robert Stephens, James Thompson, and Jesse Young, residents of Kentucky, for kidnapping a runaway negro girl named Susan. Jennings as governor of Indiana asked for the return of the fugitives, but the governor of Kentucky refused the request. The correspondence between the two governors is printed in Esarey, Logan (ed.), *Governors Messages and Letters. Messages and Papers of Jonathan Jennings, Ratliff Boon, William Hendricks,* pp. 100-9 (*Indiana Historical Collections,* Vol. 12, Indianapolis, 1924). Adams replied on July 21, 1821, saying he had laid the papers before the president. No decision had been given on the subject by November 27 when Adams' letter was transmitted to the General Assembly. *Ibid.,* p. 223.

[2]The journals kept by the board of commissioners and John Tipton, one of the commissioners, are among the Tipton Papers in the Indiana State Library. The survey by cardinal points was used.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS
[Senate File Cases, 16th Congress, 432]

[December 5, 1820]

JONATHAN JENNINGS

Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of Indiana;

To Nathaniel Ewing, Daniel J. Caswell, and John H. Thompson Esquires Greeting; Know ye; that by a Joint ballot of both Houses of the General Assembly, you have been elected the Electors of President and Vice President of the United States for the State of Indiana.

You are therefore requested to attend at the Office of the Secretary of State, on Wednesday the 6th Inst at the hour of 2 oclock P. M. for the purpose of discharging said duty.

SEAL { Given from under my hand and the seal of state this 5th day of December 1820

By the Governor
R. A. NEW

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS
[State Department, M. L., 433]

CORYDON Novem. 9th 1821

THE HONBle JOHN Q. ADAMS
SIR.

The death of Alexander A. Meek Esqr has produced a vacancy in the office of District Attorney for this state. To fill that vacancy, I take the liberty to present to your notice, Charles Dewey Esquire as an applicant. The character of Major Dewey as a man of legal talents and probity, is not surpassed by any gentleman who presents himself at the *bar* of this state as a practitioner, and but few will consider him equalled.

Some of his connexions have been conspicuous in Massachusetts especially an Uncle, who has been connected with the judiciary of that state. The applicant is at present, a member

of the Legislature of this state, and possesses considerable popularity and still more with the Bar. Other applicants will probably be presented, but I feel confident, that Majr Dewey's appointment would be generally approved, and I have little doubt but Mr Hendricks, who has much more popularity than either of our Representatives, will not be dissatisfied at his appointment at least, whatever may be his situation in relation to other applicants, believing however, that he has not given assurances to any. On this subject I shall address General Hendricks Allow me to add, that the appointment of Major Dewey, will be received as a favour done me, while on his part, he is quite deserving the office.[1]

With sentiments of unfeigned respect, I have the honour to be your

Obt: Humble Sert

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO ROBERT A. NEW

[English Collection]

CORYDON Nov. 16, 1821

R A NEW Esq.

SIR

Inconvenience as well as delay has been experienced in the execution of civil commissions in consequence of communications of a public character directed to the Secretary of State not having been taken from the Post Office.

You are well aware the law requires that the returns of elections of civil officers be made to you Officially and you will therefore be so good as to communicate to me in writing the causes which have produced the circumstances alluded to,

[1]Dewey was born in Massachusetts and attended Williams College before coming to Indiana in 1816. He located first at Paoli and later at Charlestown. He acted as legal adviser for Jennings in his controversy with Christopher Harrison over the governorship. The United States Senate confirmed his appointment as district attorney on April 4, 1822. Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches*, pp. 360-65; U. S. Senate, *Executive Journal*, Vol. 3, p. 285.

that the Legislature may be informed and make such provision as may be deemed necessary for the future[1]

Respectfully Yours

J. JENNINGS

SPECIAL MESSAGE: GOVERNOR'S DWELLING HOUSE AT CORYDON

[English Collection]

TO THE HONB[le] HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Under the provisions of a joint Resolution of the last General Assembly, the tenement which is now occupied by the undersigned, was rented for the term of one year and which term is nearly expired. For the occupancy of the property, one hundred and fifty dollars have been paid to the owner, with the understanding that a further compensation for the use of said property should be submitted to the Legislature.

By reference to the said Resolution, it will be found that I was not authorised to make any contract, for a longer period than one year.[2]

Respectfully &C.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

Decem. 31[st] 1821

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[1]Secretary New replied that the want of specie or its equivalent produced the inconvenience as nothing else would be received in payment for postage; that the auditor did not conceive himself authorized to issue a warrant for more than the actual amount of postage due at the expiration of each quarter; and that as soon as he had been able to secure treasury notes he tried to exchange them for specie, but by that time the letters had been forwarded to the General Post Office as dead letters. New to Jennings, November 21, 1821, English Collection.

Jennings transmitted copies of his letter and Secretary New's reply to the General Assembly. The appropriations for the next year included $100 for postage to be distributed as follows: $35 to the governor, $35 to the secretary of state, $15 each to the auditor and treasurer. *Laws of Indiana*, 1821-22, p. 82.

[2]The resolution here referred to provided: "That Harbin H. Moore be allowed the sum of two hundred dollars, the balance due as a compensation for his house occupied during two years past by the chief executive of state . . . the treasurer of state to pay the same out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated," and also authorized the governor to "rent quarterly, such convenient dwelling house and suitable out buildings for his own use as he may deem proper for the ensuing year." *Laws of Indiana*, 1820-21, p. 138.

On January 3, 1822, a resolution was passed allowing $50 as a

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

[State Department, M. L., 440]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jany 14th 1822

J. Jennings presents to the Secretary for the Department of State, and encloses the documents connected with the unfortunate situation of the son of Mr Huffman of Indiana.[1]

If the President of the U. States, should not deem it expedient to relieve the Petitioner by a resort to the Diplomatic fund, J. Jennings will [be] glad to have the enclosed papers returned to the House.

[Addressed:] The Honble John Q. Adams

[Indorsed:] Jennings J. House of Rep. 14 Jany 1823 Rec 18th Benj. Hoffman Feby 23. Delivered the papers in this case to Mr Jennings of the H. of R.

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

[State Department, M. L., 450]

CORYDON April 2d 1822

THE HONBLE JOHN Q. ADAMS

SIR. Your letter of the 1st Ult: from the Department of State, has been regularly received, together with the printed copy of the Marshal's Returns of the 4th census. The copy of

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balance of the compensation due Moore for his house in Corydon. An agreement had been made during the meeting of the constitutional convention whereby the town of Corydon was to provide a suitable residence for the governor in turn for being permitted to remain the capital until 1825, but this provision was never carried out. The house of Harbin Moore was built of brick made on the lot where it stood and the interior was finished in hand-carved hardwood. Although it was long known as the "Governor's Mansion," Jennings was the only governor who occupied it. *Laws of Indiana*, 1821-22, pp. 176-77; Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, Vol. 1, pp. 308-9; Roose, *Indiana's Birthplace*, p. 24.

[1]In March, 1813, the five-year-old son of Benjamin Huffman was stolen by the Indians from his home in Clark County. Jennings was able to get an appropriation from Congress to enable the father to seek his son. He was found in Canada. Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison*, Vol. 2, pp. 279-80. See also Jennings to Adams, December 20, 1822.

the Secrect journal of the Old Congress, has not yet arrived, but will no doubt in due time.

The only incorporated institutions for the promotion of education in Indiana, are, "The University of Indiana," Bloomington, Monroe County, its geographical situation; and the documents may be forwarded to Doc. David H. Maxwell, one of the Trustees of the University. The second, is "The Madison Academy" situated at Madison, Jefferson County. The principal officer of this institution, lately deceas[d] but the documents might be directed to the care of Col: John Paul. The third and last, is the "Vincennes University" situated in Vincennes Ind. The Rev[d] Samuel Scott was lately its principal.

With very great respect, I have the honour to be your very humble Servant.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO ISAAC KIMBERLIN[1]

[English Collection]

CHARLESTON April 13[th] 1822

M[r] KIMBERLIN

SIR.

The proper course for your father to take in relation to your land, will be, to have a Sheriff's Deed written and presented to Weathers the late Sheriff, and if he refuses to sign and seal it, your only course will be either to apply to the Circuit Court of this County for a Mandamus to compel him to Sign and Seal it; Or otherwise, to bring Suit on the Bond executed by

[1]Isaac Kimberlin's father, John, was the first settler in what is now Scott County. In 1833, a Senate Committee recommended allowing Kimberlin's claim for the value of provisions taken by United States troops who assembled near his farm following the Indian massacre at Pigeon Roost. His correspondence with Jennings, however, seems to relate to a claim for land. His name is not given in the list of soldiers of George Rogers Clark who received a land grant in Clark County. Coleman, Lizzie D., *History of the Pigeon Roost Massacre,* p. 34 (Mitchell, Ind., 1904); *Senate Documents,* 23 Congress, 1 session, Vol. 1, No. 19, December 31, 1833. See also Jennings to John Kimberlin, January 11 and March 3, 1826.

Weathers and his securities for the faithful performance of the duties of the office of Sheriff.[1]

Very respectfully yours &C

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mr. Isaac Kimberlin, Scott County, Ind. c/o Doc. A. P. Hay.

JENNINGS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

[*Western Clarion*, June 19, 1822]

FELLOW CITIZENS,

The period will soon arrive, when by the provisions of the constitution, it will devolve on you to elect, by your suffrages, an individual other than myself, to act as Governor of the state. During the time I have discharged the duties required of the Executive of Indiana, it has been my anxious wish to promote that harmony of feeling, which is so essential to public and private happineess; and in the exercise of my official duties, to deserve the confidence of the people of the state by a conscientious discharge of the important trust, which must shortly be committed to a successor of your own selection.

In the official situation which I am shortly to leave, it became my duty to enter upon a scene before untried in Indiana. The constitution of the state, had necessarily to be brought into operation under the conflicting influence of the various opinions, which always attend every important change in the form of any government. Under such circumstances I must have erred. It must be admitted that all men, whatever may be the progress of experience, are subject in common to errors of the judgement. But whatever may have been the errors on my part, I feel a conscious pride that I have never erred in the exercise of a public trust, in any manner which has resulted to my private advantage. In the exercise of a public trust, I have always made my personal interest yield to the paramount consideration of the public welfare, and in soliciting the suffrages

[1] John Weathers was appointed sheriff of Clark County, December 29, 1813. Territorial *Executive Journal*, p. 204.

of the people, I seek that only to which other citizens of the state are eligible.

I have been a candidate for some time past, to represent the second Congressional District in the eighteenth Congress. If elected my services as such will not be required at the city of Washington until December 1823 nearly eighteen months hence. In consequence of which, and the expectation that Gen. Hendricks would create a vacancy in the next winter's session of the 17th Congress, and in as much as the state can have but one representative until after the expiration of the next Session of Congress; I have been frequently solicited, from different parts of the state, to consent to serve, if elected, to fill the vacancy, which Gen. Hendricks has lately created by [paper torn][1] My replies have been in substance, [paper torn] was as willing to represent the people of the state, during the vacancy of next winter, as they might be to elect me, but that it was more immediately my wish, to represent the District in which I reside; if congenial with the interest and wishes of a majority of its citizens. Having sometime since, made such declarations when enquired of, it is not for me to contradict them, especially as there exists no incompatibility, nor any other objection to the course, either legal or constitutional, except that preference which every elector has an undeniable right to exercise between candidates for the same office. When solicited on the subject of the vacancy of next winter, for me to have said that I was unwilling to serve if, the people were disposed to elect me, would have been uncandid, and for me to have refused would have been ungrateful on my part and qualified to disappoint many of my friends.

My object in this address is to prevent my views from being mis-represented, as well as to prevent any deception from being practised upon those who have not made the subject of the approaching election an object of enquiry, in relation to the circumstance of the election taking place for the eighteenth

[1]William Hendricks was a candidate for governor. He had served as representative in Congress since 1817.

Congress on the same day with the election for the vacancy of next winter in the seventeenth Congress. To prevent any confusion growing out of the circumstance of both elections taking place on the first Monday of August next, it will only be necessary for a voter, to give in a ticket for that person whom he may wish as his representative next winter *"To represent the state in the vacancy of the 17th Congress,"* and another ticket for the person whom he may wish to represent him winter after next *"To represent the district in the 18th Congress,"*

If elected, fellow citizens, I have only to assure you that I shall discharge my duty with fidelity and as much to your advantage as my abilities will enable me.

Very respectfully.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

CORYDON, June 8th 1822.

PROCLAMATION: OFFERING REWARD FOR CAPTURE OF CONVICTS

[*Western Clarion*, July 24, 1822]

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

Whereas it has been represented to me, that on the fourth day of the present month, three of the convicts in the State prison, effected their escape, viz: Robert Townsend, Abial Townsend and John Gibson—Robert Townsend is about 5 feet 3 inches high, dark eyes and hair, dark complexion, and about 25 years of age. Abial Townsend is about five feet seven or eight inches high, grey eyes, light complexion, light hair and about thirty one years of age, these two are brothers, and are round, fleshy, active men, sent to the State prison from the county of Ripley.—John Gibson is a tall, lean fellow, six feet high, eyes rather deep, and dark, light brown hair, light complexion, long slim face, and bad countenance.

Now therefore, I, Jonathan Jennings, Governor and commander in chief, of the State of Indiana, have issued this proclamation, hereby offering a reward of $150 for the apprehension and delivery of the said convicts, at the State prison in Jeffersonville, or in the Jail of any County in this State: or $50 for either of them.

[SEAL] Given from under my hand and the seal of State, at Carodon, this 9th day of July 1822, the 6th year of the State, and of the Independence of the United States the forty seventh.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

By the Governor:
R. A. NEW, *Sec'ty.*

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

COLUMBUS July 13th '22

DOC. D. G. MITCHELL,
Dr SIR

I am do[ing] pretty well, but they are making great exertions. Ross went from Charleston to Salem and published those interrogatories, sent them to Charleston and Madison to be republished and he Ross made himself responsible for payment, expecting that I would not see them in time to answer, at least soon enough to circulate them, but I have made great exertion and succe[ss]fully.[1] I hope my friends will attend to Harrison and Crawford Counties. I sent through Col. Ranney[2] to you or to the Post office a number of Handbills to be distributed in Harrison and Clark Counties. I hope that my friends will attend to the management of my enemies in Crawford & Harrison Counties

Yours &C.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Corydon, Ind.

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[1]Jennings probably refers here to John F. Ross of Charlestown. He served as president judge of the Second Judicial Circuit from 1824 until his death ten years later. He fought in the War of 1812 and was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, 1819-20, and 1820-21. See Jennings' answer to the interrogatories, p. 236. These were first published in the *Indiana Farmer* at Salem and reprinted in other newspapers.

[2]Colonel Stephen Ranney was an early tavern keeper at Charlestown and the first adjutant general of the state. *History of the Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties. . . ,* Vol. 2, p. 342 (Cleveland, Ohio, 1882).

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

CHARLESTON July 15th 22

DOC. D. G. MITCHELL

I send you by B. Ferguson Esqr 150 copies of handbills, which you will distribute if you find it necessary, and where you may think they may be most needed.[1]

Some of my friends must keep a good look out. Could not some one go to Crawford. In haste.

J. JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Corydon, Ind.

JENNINGS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

[*Western Clarion*, July 24, 1822]

FELLOW CITIZENS,

Upon my arrival at this place on my way to Columbus Court, where I had been summoned to attend as a witness, I was presented with the "Indiana Farmer" printed at Salem, containing a list of interrogatories which the writer presumes will be answered by myself or friends.

It has been my determination not to appear in Pamphlets or News papers whilst continuing in office as Governor of the state, to justify my official acts, if for no other reasons than because such a course is unknown in other states, and because if every question which the malevolence of enemies might put to me through the press, should be answered through the same medium, more time would be consumed than my public and private concerns could possibly admit.

The inquisition, as an appendage to Roman religion, in its practice required if any one was suspected of not duly reverencing the *Holy Catholic* faith, that he should be-put to the rack and compelled to furnish evidence for his own con-

[1] Benjamin Ferguson represented Clark County in the Indiana House of Representatives during the sessions of 1816, 1817-18, 1831-32, 1832-33, 1836-37, 1837-38.

demnation, or be tortured even to death for his refusal. My fellow citizens will judge whether in the annals of political persecution, a more ungenerous attack has ever come within their knowledge.

If "An Old Resident" were known,[1] it might appear that he is a citizen of this place; that those questions were manufactured here, and sent to Salem for publication:—that the writer has been a disappointed office seeker, or that he belongs to a combination of men composed of the slave party, well known a few years past; or a certain other set of men who have united with them for the purpose of destroying my political character, if no more.

That such a combination exists and has existed for some time, I pledge myself to my fellow citizens to make appear in due time, and at a more proper season than is selected to attack me. Just at the eve of the election, after various solicitations and attempts at arrangement since February last, among a certain number of gentlemen to whom the secret was to have been confided, with regard to who could be got out as a candidate most likely to out poll me; and after consenting and then declining to become candidates—and after becoming candidates and withdrawing from the list, they have completed their arrangements a little more than a month previous to the election: a part of which plan appears through the columns of the Salem paper, leaving scarcely time for a reply to reach the different portions of the District, and much less the different parts of the state. I ask my fellow citizens if in all these things there were no arrangements, no little caucuses in the rounds of the Circuit Courts, and whether all this exertion was purely to promote the public good?

The questions which are put to me for answers, are connected with transactions, some of which transpired nearly twelve years ago, and all except three of them have been passed upon by my fellow citizens by large majorities in my favor. Those questions are framed with all the ingenuity of a lawyer,

[1]The article in the *Indiana Farmer* containing the interrogatories was signed "An Old Resident."

in order to give the public as unfavorable views of the subjects to which they refer as possible, and would require pages to afford the people a fair and full view of the facts and circumstances. But notwithstanding my present disadvantage I am required to reply to them: that reply must therefore be hastily done, or my answers will not reach many to whom this insiduous attack will be carried.

The first question is insidious, inasmuch as it is, and has been usual to deposit public monies that were not required for immediate use, and if I had kept the money in my private possession these same characters would have charged me with speculating on it, or something worse.[1] If the State should sustain a loss, which I do not as yet admit, (as the State has lately obtained a judgement on a *Quo Warranto* against the Bank) am I more to be censured than the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, who had at that same time a deposit in the same Bank of two hundred thousand dollars, and not one word heard against that high officer? I used every diligence in that trust and when that deposit was made, not only was the State indebted to the Bank nearly 30,000 dollars, but the notes of the Bank were Land Office money, and the Bank was a Bank of deposit for the United States.

The next, regards the pre-emption given by Congress to Canadian Refugees. To their obtaining their pick and choice of lands either in this state or any other—and to their obtaining lands in any way, except by the mode of purchasing as others, I was opposed, and no man can with truth speak a different language; and if I as a Delegate, had not been denied the right of voting in the House, the charge could not be made.

The question with regard to the Tippecanoe campaign, speaks the same feelings, and is directed to the same objects

[1]The question asked by "An Old Resident" was what authority did Jennings have to deposit the $5,000 appropriated for the Jeffersonville Ohio Canal in the Vincennes Bank, as a consequence of which the state would suffer a total loss of about $3,000 of the amount appropriated. *Western Clarion,* July 24, 1822, reprinted from the *Indiana Farmer.* For further information, see Esarey, Logan, *State Banking in Indiana 1814-1875,* Chap. I (*Indiana University Studies,* Vol. 10, No. 2, Bloomington, 1912).

with regard to me, which at that time were entertained and exerted by the slave party, and is untrue in point of fact.[1] I had my opinions with regard to the circumstances which brought about the campaign, and those I still entertain. Who in this state has done more than myself for the widows and orphans of those who fell in that battle? but these patriotic writers tell you of no such facts.

With regard to fixing the temporary seat of government, it will be recollected that it was done by ballot. Before the ballot was taken I was asked by a member from Harrison county, whether I had any particular interest as to where the temporary seat should be fixed: My reply was, that I had not, except as it regarded the County of Clark, which I in part represented. I then consented to decline balloting, except for Clark County, upon the agreement of others. I was afterwards called on to vote, when I rose and stated the circumstances: upon which, Judge Parke, a member from Knox, moved that I should be excused from voting.[2]

As to my withholding a commission from Mr. M'Farland, it must be recllected that at the time of the first election of County and Township officers under the State Government, no authority had been given by law to the county commissioners to hear and decide contested elections. The election of Col. M'Farland (and others) was contested; and from the circumstances, and after consulting with, and upon the advice of a majority of the Supreme Court, the commissions were withheld for adjudication.

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[1]Jennings was accused of using his exertions to defeat the object of the Tippecanoe campaign by persuading men not to turn out under the call of Governor William Henry Harrison. *Western Clarion,* July 24, 1822.

[2]Benjamin Parke came to Knox County in 1801 from New Jersey. Under the territorial government he filled the offices of delegate to Congress, 1805-8, attorney general of the territory, territorial representative, and member of the constitutional convention. After the organization of the state government he was appointed first Federal judge for the District of Indiana and removed to Salem where he resided until his death in 1836. Cauthorn, Henry S., *A History of the City of Vincennes from 1702 to 1901,* p. 188 (Terre Haute, 1902); Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches,* pp. 384-90.

With respect to the commission to treat with the Indians, I acted according to my best judgment, and if I had not been called on in this singular manner, just before the election, and not having the time to investigate the subject, I would enter upon it with pleasure.[1] As to my monopolizing two offices, and receiving the salaries and emoluments thereof, it is basely false. The Senior Editor of the "Indiana Farmer" must recollect, and his files ought to shew, that the Auditor of the State granted a certificate that I neither asked nor received any pay from the State, while I was negociating with the Indians for the body of land which is now termed the New Purchase. And as regards the commission itself, upon my return from the negociation, and after learning the course taken against me in my absence, on examining the papers brought with me from St. Marys, the commission so much handled to my prejudice met my view, and reflecting that the Governors of other States, under constitutions like ours, had acted in like situations; and that nothing dissatisfactory was produced, either in the State of Ohio or Tennessee, by their undertaking similar negociations. I destroyed it in disgust. Upon Judge Park's arrival some days afterwards, which was about the first of November 1818, I called on him and told him the circumstances, and at the same time informed him that I should not act any further in perfecting a conditional treaty for lands lying north west of the Wabash. Judge Parke sometime afterwards, told the circumstances *confidentially* as he informed me, to a third person, and through him to other *confidential* hands to "an old resident" I presume of Clark County.

With regard to representing the state and the 2nd Congressional District, I have *asked* to represent the District, and as to representing the State, I *have been asked* by many of my fellow citizens. It restrains not the right of choice, and the

[1]Jennings served on the commission appointed by the president to extinguish Indian titles to land in northern Indiana in 1818. This service was declared to be contrary to the constitution of the state which provided that "no member of Congress, or person holding any office under the united States, or this State, shall exercise the office of Governor, or Lieutenant Governor." Kettleborough, *Constitution Making in Indiana*, Vol. 1, p. 97.

people have the right to choose or refuse. As to the idea of monopoly, it commenced with those who expected to gain something by the hue and cry, and by some of those who were knowing to a plan formed in anticipation to keep me out of Congress, by forming Congressional Districts in a particular manner, and which plan was attempted to be affected in the Senate during the last session of the General Assembly. But General Harrison was elected a few years since, to fill a vacancy in Congress occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. John M'Clean,[1] and at the same election was elected for the next succeeding Congress; yet there was no monopoly spoken of in that event.

Relative to the appointment of Judge Blake, it is true he was indicted for duelling, but it is equally true he was found not guilty.[2] He was strongly recommended for the appointment and if he did not take the oath required by law, it is with the judge or justice of the peace who administered the oath, & whose imperious duty it was to make return thereof to the clerk of the Circuit Court in which the same was administered, to account for the omission. But I have never heard that "an old resident," or any of his party has made any enquiry on this point! No! it does not suit their present views!—It might prove rather injurious to their present arrangements!

With regard to my having been a director of the Corodon branch bank, nothing was said until the bank failed to pay specie; and if the state bank and the other branches had been as honestly managed as the Corodon Branch, "An Old Resident" would have no ground to calculate upon rousing the prejudices of the people. Everything that concerns the bank, answers the purposes of this "Old Resident;" but if he and some of his particular friends were as clear of our State Bank, &c. as I am, it might be well for them. Not long since, every

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[1]Hon. John McLean.

[2]Judge Thomas Blake. A law was passed by the first state legislature requiring all judges and attorneys at law to take an oath that they had not been a participant in any duel since June 29, 1816, and would not participate in any during their continuance in office. *Laws of Indiana*, 1816-17 (general), p. 180.

little town wanted a bank, Salem, Charlestown, and others; and were not General Bartholomew, Dr. Hay, Judge Shelby, Judge Scott, Captain Beggs[1] and others, elected Directors of a bank to be located at Charlestown? and was not application made to the Corodon branch bank to procure money to aid in getting it into operation? Was not Judge Floyd[2] a Director also? What reason can then be assigned why no notice has been taken of banking concerns, except for the purpose of a secret attack on myself?

Whatever the gross amount of fines remitted may be, the instances are few where remissions have taken place, without the recommendation of the courts before whom the fines were assessed, or of a majority of the representatives of the county in which fines were imposed.[3] The documents in the office of the Secretary of State will speak for themselves.

More than two months since some of my enemies reported in this place (Charlestown) that the night preceding the fast day in April, I was gambling and intoxicated: For this report no person could be found to acknowledge himself responsible, and thus it remained until judge Scott became a candidate,[4] and then, and not till then, it makes an appearance in the Salem newspaper, in a different dress. Why should it have remained to make its appearance in the public prints so shortly before the election? Had it not been for circumstances, I should not have had it in my power to have answered it, even two weeks before

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[1]General Joseph Bartholomew, Dr. Andrew P. Hay, Judge Evan Shelby, Judge James Scott, and Captain James Beggs.

[2]Judge Davis Floyd.

[3]Jennings was charged with remitting three or four thousand dollars of fines imposed on violators of the penal laws, which was to constitute a fund appropriated for the use of schools and seminaries of learning, in order to "secure the votes of the offenders" or to "encourage offenders to commit like outrages again." *Western Clarion*, July 24, 1822.

[4]Judge James Scott of Clark County was Jennings' opponent in the election for a representative in Congress from the Second Congressional District. Scott had served as United States attorney during the territorial period, was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and one of the judges of the supreme court from 1816 to 1830. Baird, *History of Clark County*, pp. 283-84; Leonard, Adam A., "Personal Politics in Indiana," in *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 19, pp. 13, 14; Monks, Leander J., Esarey, Logan, and Shockley, Ernest V. (eds.), *Courts and Lawyers of Indiana*, Vol. 1, pp. 185-86 (Indianapolis, 1916).

the election. It is false and infamously false. I gambled not, nor was I intoxicated. This "Old Resident" wishes too, to give me the credit of recommending the fast day, in order to seize the more easily on the religious feelings of the community. The truth is however, I was solicited from a highly respectable source to bring the subject before the General Assembly, and the following is an extract of my communication on the subject.

"To the Senate and
House of Representatives—

"Pursuant to an application, respectable and consonant in its character, I submit to the General Assembly, in conformity to the request, the propriety of appointing a day of fasting &c."

I am not hypocrite enough to assume the appearance of a character I do not sustain; and not being a professer of religion, I deemed it proper for me to introduce the subject in the cautious manner I have done, following the language of the request, after the extract given; see page 264 of the Journal of the House of Representatives. But how does the charge of *"gambling and intoxication"* as was first circulated now stand? It comes in a rather more imposing form, with not quite so harsh an appearance. This "Old Resident" comes out and enquires whether I "did not spend the night in the fashionable vice of *drinking and card playing,* &c. &c." Mark the phraseology! Not *gambling and intoxication* as at first reported. It is true I was, on the evening alluded to invited to a room at Judge Shelby's, where were several gentlemen already assembled, some of whom were playing, but for amusement only. The next morning some of my enemies, as I am well informed, instituted an enquiry, to ascertain who were in the room the night preceding, and what was done; and finding from what was drawn from a gentleman, that I was there, they gave existence to the report that I was *gambling and intoxicated.* The fact of my being in the room, was obtained by mean and contemptible pimping, for the sole purpose of aiding the combined arrangements which had been formed against me. But if the transactions of *every house* and of some of these par-

ticular characters were publickly known, some one or more of them have presented scenes of impropriety, which would place this charge with which they wish to injure me, far in the back ground. My political and personal integrity is beyond the reach of their malignity, but my personal character and feelings must be assailed in this insidious manner to save themselves from being defeated in their plot to put me down.

In relation to my conduct the night before the fast day, I subjoin a certificate which would have been sworn to if the laws of the state on the subject of voluntary oaths, did not prohibit it.

"We certify that we were present when Gov. Jennings came into the room in the house of Judge Shelby, referred to in his communication of the 15th inst. and that during his and our remaining in the house, neither his deportment nor any of his conduct were in violation of the moral law or any law of this state.

SAMUEL STAFFORD.
WOODBRIDGE PARKER.
WM. H. MOORE.

July 13th, 1822."

The artful and unfair manner, in which they couple together the circumstance of my being in company the night preceding the fast, with the fact of my not being at sermon the next day, deserves some attention. "An Old Resident" *basely* and *falsely* states, that I refused to join my fellow citizens in their devotion, and that I spent the day in slumbers at a private house. This assertion is intended to infuse an idea, that I had by intemperance disqualified myself for attending church: but the following cirtificate will show how far my enemies, with their *devotional feelings* will adhere to truth.

"I certify that Mr. Jennings came into my house on the morning of the fast day, in April, about six o'clock in the morning, and remained with me one or two hours in conversation. I discovered no difference in his appearance nor any evidence of dissipation. Given under my hand this 15th day of July, 1822. JOHN DOUTHITT."

As to slumbering in a private house, I was not on that day at any private house, except Squire Douthit's Mr. Simonson's[1] and Doct. Hay's; the latter gentleman's house is my home when in Charlestown.—The last certificate which I shall subjoin will shew how much truth is in this last charge, as well as the circumstances which attended my not being at Church on that day:

"I certify that on the morning of the last fast day, being the same week of the Clerk Circuit Court, I met Mr. Jennings and after learning from him that he should leave town the same evening or the next morning, I solicited him to walk to my house, that I had some communications of a family and private concern to make to him as a particular friend; observing to him at the same time, that the sickness of my child, and the press of business which devolved on me during court, as assistant sheriff of the county prevented me until that morning from an opportunity of showing him some letters and conversing on subjects very interesting to me. He then walked to my house, and after he had read some letters, and conversed with me some time, Mr. Jennings asked if it were not time to go to preaching. I examined my watch and observed to him, that the sermon must have commenced a considerable time before. He replied, that he never went out of church before sermon was ended, and that he did not like to go at so late an hour. He then remained in conversation with me until three or four o'clock in the afternoon, when he left me.

JOHN SIMONSON."

July 15.

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[1]John S. Simonson was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in 1796, and came to Charlestown, Indiana, in 1817. He served in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and was superintendent of volunteer recruiting service in the Civil War. He also served in both houses of the state legislature. It is probable that he was related to Jennings by marriage as Sarah Jennings married a Dr. Simonson, of Pennsylvania. Nowland, John H. B., *Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876 . . .*, pp. 129-34 (Indianapolis, 1877).

I leave my fellow citizens to estimate how far I have forfeited their good opinion as a citizen or as a candidate for office.

Respectfully,

JONATHAN JENNINGS

CHARLESTOWN, July 15th, 1822.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

MADISON July 17th [1822]

DOC. D. G. MITCHELL

Dr SIR.

Ross set off to Salem and there published the abusive questions against me and if I had not happened to be at Charleston I should not have had it in my power to answer in any time to reach the people. He would not publish at Charleston. when if I had remained at Corydon I should not have seen them until this evening. You will [see] the questions in the Madison papers, but I send you this lest they, as papers might not arrive. I think they had better (the questions and answers) be published. I sent to you a number of Handbills. I wish you to enquire at the printing office for them and be particular to address them on the back to particular individuals not forgeting the proper persons in town

Yours

J. JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Corydon, Ind.

JENNINGS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

[*Western Clarion*, July 24, 1822]

FELLOW CITIZENS,

Permit me to ask your attention to the following statement.

The fast day was in April last, Judge Scott became a candidate the latter part of June, the publication came out against me in Salem, the 12th day of July, and the election takes place

on the first Monday in August. I ask why this publication was so long delayed, and why it was made so shortly before the election?—Does it not assume the appearance of a design to take an advantage?

Respectfully,

JONATHAN JENNINGS

July 17th, 1822.

JENNINGS TO JOHN MCLEAN

[General Land Office, M. L. R., 526]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES[1]

10th of Dec. 1822

HONBle JOHN MCCLEAN

SIR

I enclose you nine final certificates for which I would be gratified to receive the Patents as likewise three patents for three several tracts purchased by Obadiah Jennings in the Jeffersonville District.

I enclosed you likewise an account for printing and would be glad if a Draft in favour of Mr Brandon could be had upon the Land office at Jeffersonville.[2]

I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on you very shortly and am

most respectfully your obt: St.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

Decr 11. I wish these patents as soon as possible

[Indorsed:] enclose 9 Certificate for Patents & requires 3 Patents for Obadiah Jenings The first are sent to him & the latter cannot be referrd to for want of description.—has been written to by the Commissioner 11 Dec. 1822 1 Pat. in the

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[1]Jennings defeated Scott by a large majority in the election for representative to Congress from the Second Congressional District. He was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hendricks as well as for the term beginning March 4, 1823.

[2]Armstrong Brandon was one of the editors of the *Indiana Gazette* published at Corydon. The account here mentioned was for printing the laws of the United States.

name of O. Jenn has been sent to J. J. to other have not been paid as pr. ledger.

JENNINGS TO JOHN QUINCY ADAMS[1]

[State Department, M. L., 486]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Decem. 20th 1822

THE HONBLE JOHN Q. ADAMS
SIR.

As chairman of a Select committee, to whom has been referred a petition of Benjamin Huffman, whose son of five years of age, was taken a prisoner by the Indians in 1813, from the County of Clark, Ind[a]; I am directed to request of you, a copy of a report, made by Governor Cass of Michigan to, and at the requisition of, the Department of state, in relation to this case. In addition, if convenient, to afford the Committee, such information as may enable it to determine, what course, if any be adviseable, should be preferred, to enable the unfortunate father to reclaim his lost child.

The committee will again meet, on Monday morning next, within which time, it would be very acceptable to have your reply. With great respect, Sir,

Your obt: Humble St:
JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO THE "CITIZENS OF INDIANAPOLIS"

[*Western Censor, & Emigrants Guide,* March 7, 1823]

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 5, 1823.

TO THE CITIZENS OF INDIANAPOLIS.

The enclosed letter from the Post Master General will furnish an answer to your memorial on the subject of Post Roads, and I hope it will be found satisfactory. Yours, &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]For an earlier letter addressed to Adams on this same subject, see p. 230.

[Inclosure]

GENERAL POST OFFICE, Feb. 5

SIR—I beg leave to remark, in answer to the memorial from sundry citizens of Indianapolis, which you have transmitted to this Department, that I believe no place of the size and present importance of Indianapolis, has greater mail advantages, which may be called exclusively their own, as all present mails that go there are sent on account of Indianapolis. A direct weekly mail will pass from Brookville to that place in a few weeks, and a regular weekly mail now passes between Brookville and Columbus, Ohio. We have had no advice of a road being cut from Indianapolis to Vandalia. If there be a direct road, the mail will be sent between those places as soon as suitable arrangements can be made.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant.

R. J. MEIGS, JR.

HON. J. JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO GEORGE GRAHAM

[General Land Office, M. L. R., Vol. 1, p. 382]

Dec^{r} 6th 1823

THE HON: GEORGE GRAHAM

SIR.

Your favour of this day I acknowledge, and in return, have to solicit a Duplicate of the Patent to Enoch Parr.[1]

M^{r} Parr called on me, about one month since having been at the Land Office at Jeffersonville, the day preceding, for the sole purpose of obtaining his patent; at which time, it had not arrived.

He will soon be subjected to the expence of legal process, on account of failure to make title according to his contract of bargain and sale, unless you will furnish me for his use a dupli-

[1] A memoir of Parr is published in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 22, pp. 371-453.

cate of the Patent issued as it certainly has miscarried. Yours with great respect

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Indorsed:] Patent sent

JENNINGS TO THE EDITORS OF THE WESTERN CENSOR

[*Western Censor, & Emigrants Guide,* March 8, 1824]

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 14th, 1824

GENTLEMEN,

Enclosed you have a copy of a bill, reported by a committee of which I am a member, which contemplates the examination and survey of the great western road so as to pass through the seats of government of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

During the last session of Congress, I brought up the subject of issuing a scrip or Treasury notes and making such notes receivable in payment for public lands, to effect the extension of this road. The proposition was new and not so well received as I had hoped it would have been, but I think it is gaining friends. The treasury of the U. States has no funds to spare at present, as is urged by many, from the wants of the government to reimburse the public debt as it falls due, and meet the other national demands upon it; to lend or advance money, upon the faith of the two per cent. fund of Indiana and Illinois, to make this road; and the fund itself, so far as it has accrued, are inadequate to the great object, and its consequent expenditure.[1] The proposition to issue bills of credit to extend this road, therefore, does not create a direct demand upon the U. S. Treasury, and was intended to avoid objections that might arise on that ground; what shall be the ultimate success of the bill during the present session cannot be foretold; though it is certain that every exertion will be made to effect its final

[1]This refers to the National Road, now U. S. Road 40. The bill is omitted here. The Enabling Act provided that five per cent of the net proceeds from the sale of public lands lying within the Territory should be reserved for making public roads and canals, three-fifths of which should be applied to improvements within the state and two-fifths to the making of roads leading to the state. Kettleborough, *Constitution Making in Indiana,* Vol. 1, p. 76.

passage. It is of much importance that the road should be finally laid out and established, not only with a view to the enhancement of the state's property at Indianapolis, but also as it regards the relative situation and comparative value of private property. I am confident that the members from Indiana, at least, concur in this view of the subject.

I am respectfully, your ob't serv't.

Jonathan Jennings

Jennings to His Constituents

[*Western Censor, & Emigrants Guide*, June 29, 1824]

To the Citizens of the Second Congressional District.

The present session of Congress will soon close, after having been protracted by the debates principally on the subject of revising the rates of impost duties, on the importation of foreign goods into the United States.

I have been severely afflicted with a violent attack of a bilious rheumatism, of which however, I am recovering, but which has disenabled me for a considerable time to attend to business, and even yet I write with pain, owing to the effect which the rheumatism has left upon my arms and shoulders. I hope soon to be able however to write with less difficulty, when I shall submit to you my views in relation to such subjects as have been under the deliberation of congress, and calculated from their character to claim an interest in your attention.

In relation to office, I have always chose to pursue that course which public opinion seemed to direct; and although my enemies have endeavoured to fix ambitious views upon me, as a pretext for their unwearied persecution: yet it must be admitted, that I have not been a candidate for an office, for which a prior incumbent was also on the list.

With the will of the people, when constitutionally expressed, every republican must acquiesce; and with that expressed will of the people, I shall always be satisfied, when made known, unbiassed by the influence of over-heated party zeal, or the secret managements of personal combination.

To the unprejudiced portion of my fellow-citizens and to my friends, I leave my pretentions to office; while my personal enemies, and those who knowingly subserve their views, will indulge as they have done, *in all the gratification, which misrepresentations of my public and private transactions, may afford to their understandings of right and wrong.*

I am, fellow citizens with much respect, your obedient servant,

JONATHAN JENNINGS

WASHINGTON, May 20th, 1824.

The editors within the second congressional district, will please insert the foregoing and oblige

J. J.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

COLUMBUS OHIO Nov^{r} 18th 1824

DOC. DAVID G. MITCHELL

D^{r} SIR.

I find in the Eastern part of the state, that if Hendricks were out of the way, my election would be almost certain.[1] What is he doing and what does he intend to do. Deal with him quite *mildly* and let me hear from you without delay, embracing such view as may be useful to me.

Some certain gentlemen, in the East, talk of my residence as being not sufficiently West, and attempts will therefore be made to unite, in political concert the East and West part of the State. This is to be guarded against prudently, but I believe a majority of the Eastern members will not join in such course however they may vote.

Clay has the vote of this state by a majority of nearly 700 votes.[2] Do not let me hear from you without delay. Tell me all;

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[1] Jennings is referring to the election for United States senator. On the first ballot Isaac Blackford received 26 votes, William Hendricks, 25, and Jennings, 10; on the fourth ballot Hendricks was elected by a vote of 32 to 30 for Blackford. *House Journal*, 1825, pp. 32-33.

[2] This refers to the presidential election of 1824.

and what the Governor says about *"not being a Candidate if I am"*

I am in health, save Rheumatism in my knees—not much pain but stiff and sore when [I] get up from a chair or sit down; can walk when on foot pretty [well] and ride when mounted. A word about my Rheumatism as well as politics. I am your friend &C &C

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Doc. D. G. Mitchell Corydon Harrison County, Ind.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

FUNKS TOWN MD: Decem^{r} 1st 1824

Doc^{r} DAVID G. MITCHELL

D^{r} SIR.

Thus far with much fatiguge I have made my way to the City. No doubt remains, that Crawford has lost N. Carolina, and has got only four votes in N. York, & the probability is that he will be left out, and his hopes and those of his friends at an end.[1]

Will you oblige me so much as to, make out and forward to me at Washington City, the votes as given in each and every County in Indiana, for President shewing the votes distinctly, which were given for *each* candidate in *each* and *every* County.

Be so good likewise, as to urge R. A. New Esquire, from day to day, until he complies with his promise to me when at Corydon; viz, To make me out, a copy of the papers, in the case of the contested election in Jefferson County, in February 1817 when Col: William M^{c}Farland was elected Clerk and Recorder in said County.[2]

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[1]William H. Crawford was one of the presidential candidates in 1824. Andrew Jackson received 99 electorial votes, John Quincy Adams, 84, Crawford, 41, and Henry Clay, 37. No one having a majority, the election was decided by the House of Representatives from the three candidates having the highest number of votes.

[2]Jennings had been accused of withholding McFarland's commission unjustly. See p. 239.

No news of any importance. Our friends were all well. My love to sister & Ann Maria.

With esteem & regard your friend &C &C

JONATHAN JENNINGS

The Gov[r] acknowledged to Gen[l] Hanna that he ought to have told me the object of his electionering tour in the Eastern part of the state, before he went

[Addressed:] Doc. David G. Mitchell Corydon Harrison County, Ind.

JENNINGS TO GEORGE GRAHAM

[General Land Office, M. L. R., Vol. 1, p. 506]

HOUSE OF REP[s] Dec[r] 21[st] 1824

HON: GEORGE GRAHAM

SIR.

As chairman of a select Committee, I have to request of you to inform as early as your duties will allow; the amount of the three per Cent which *has* accrued to the state of Ohio; and the amount of said fund which *has* been *paid* to the state of Indiana.[1]

With great respect your obt: St:

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] The Commissioner of the Gen[l] Land Office Treasury Department

[Indorsed:] Jno. Jennings. Wants the am[o] of 3 pr ct fund for Ohio & Indiana Ans[d] 22[d] Decm[r] 1824 Gave the amtts of the Statement rendered under the Resolution of Congress of 17[th] Dec[r] 1823, and the continuous Statements up to 31 Dec[r] 1823 & 30 June 1824 respectively

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[1] Jennings was a member of the Committee on Public Lands. The amount of the three per cent fund which had been paid to Indiana up to this time was as follows: 1820, $10,000; 1822, $32,629.46; 1823, $17,857.84; 1824, $11,462.73, making a total of $71,950.03. The amount which had been paid to Ohio prior to December 29, 1824, was $287,543.94. *American State Papers. Public Lands*, Vol. 3, p. 618 (Washington, 1834).

JENNINGS TO JOHN C. CALHOUN

[Indian Office, L. R., Fort Wayne, 451]

HOUSE OF REPS Decr 21st 1824

THE HON: JOHN C. CALHOUN

SIR.

My friend Gen[l] Tipton of Fort Wayne, informs me, that in consequence of seizures made by him as Indian Agent; he is informed that exertions are to be made to his injury, by those who are interested and their friends.[1]

So far as is proper, I should be glad to be informed of what is doing and by whom; at least if any representations shall be made touching his integrity.

With great respect, I have the honour to be your

Obt: Humble St

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO EDITORS OF INDIANA JOURNAL

[*Indiana Journal*, February 8, 1825]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1825

GENTLEMEN—We have but little news here but such as the newspapers of the day contain. The great question which so much interests the whole country, and is so frequently asked, viz: who is to be President after the 3d of March next? is as frequently asked here, perhaps, as in Indiana. Although General Jackson has a greater number of votes than any other candidate, yet some consider it very doubtful, but for myself I am of opinion he will be successful.

Hints and conjectures are to be heard, that a conjunction of interest among the friends of the other candidates may ultimately defeat the success of General Jackson, and elect one of the other two candidates. But all is uncertain, and it is therefore difficult to give any certain information, in relation to the

[1] John Tipton had seized the goods of some agents of the American Fur Company for violation of the law prohibiting the sale of liquor to the Indians. Other letters on this subject are to be found in the Tipton Papers, in the Indiana State Library.

result. All that can be given is but a matter of opinion, as the course of several states on this subject, is entirely unknown to myself.[1]

I enclose you a paper, containing a discussion which involves our interest in the great western road In the winter of 1819 Congress appropriated $250,000 to complete the Cumberland road to Wheeling, and pledged the two per cent. fund of Indiana and Illinois to repay the amount into the United States Treasury. The bill now before Congress contemplates another large appropriation to construct a road, in continuation of the road to Wheeling, from the bank of the Ohio river opposite Wheeling, to Zanesville, on a like scale of probable expenditure; and this bill contains a like pledge upon our two per cent. fund without any provision ever to complete the location of the road On Monday next, when the bill will again be under consideration, Judge Call or myself, will propose an amendment, providing at least for the appropriation of so much money as will complete the location of the road; and if the amendment shall not be adopted, I, for one, will vote against the bill.[2] If the bill shall finally pass with its present provisions, the two per cent. fund of Indiana will never be of any value to our state, and the money necessary to the completion of the location, opening &c. &c. of this road, will have to be obtained as a bounty from Congress, whenever it shall be obtained instead of receiving it as a matter of right. The pledge of 1819 is used as a precedent, and if the bill passes, the time when that fund will advantage us, if ever, is uncertain.

I am yours &c. &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]The election was decided by the House of Representatives, the balloting being done by states. Jennings and the other two representatives from Indiana, Jacob Call and John Test, voted for Jackson. Adams received 13 votes, Jackson, 7, and Crawford, 4.

[2]Jennings introduced the amendment and Jacob Call, the representative from the First District, spoke in favor of it. Upon a vote being taken it was rejected by a vote of 73 to 54. The following day, however, it was reconsidered and adopted by a large majority. *Annals of Congress,* 18 Congress, 2 session, cols. 239-42, 245. For earlier remarks made by Jennings on the subject, see *ibid.,* cols. 195-96, 206-8.

JENNINGS TO GEORGE GRAHAM

[General Land Office, M. L. R., 529, Vol. 1, p. 447]

HOUSE REPS 20th Jany 1825

THE HON: GEORGE GRAHAM

SIR.

When I addressed you a note, a few days since and to which the enclosed was received in reply: I forgot to ask for the aggregate number of acres, *not yet relinquished,* and for which individuals are indebted to the U. States within the state of Ind[a][1]

Be so good as to give that aggregate amount of acres likewise; as soon as may be be convenient

I have been waiting to receive the Patent for Asa Smith, for a Quarter section in the Jeffersonville District.

I am very respectfully

Your obt: St:

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO EDITOR OF PUBLIC LEDGER

[*Public Ledger* (Richmond), February 12, 1825]

WASHINGTON, January 21. [1825]

SIR—We have succeeded in amending the Cumberland Road bill, by getting an appropriation of $10,000 to locate the great Western road from Zanesville, thro' the seat of government of Ohio, by Indianapolis and Vandalia to the Mississippi river; and the bill as amended, has passed the House of Representatives. The bill will pass the Senate no doubt, and the road of course will soon be located.

In haste, your friend, &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

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[1]The contents of the former note here referred to are not known. Many of the purchasers of public lands were still unable to meet the payments on these in spite of the relief laws passed during the four previous years for their benefit, and further relief was wanted. On January 21, 1825, a joint resolution had been passed by the state legislature asking that further relief be given to the purchasers and that the price of public lands be reduced. *American State Papers. Public Lands,* Vol. 4, p. 429.

JENNINGS TO EDITORS OF PUBLIC LEDGER

[*Public Ledger* (Richmond), March 5, 1825]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1825.

GENTLEMEN—Enclosed I send you a copy of a communication to the President of the United States, on the subject of removing the Land Office from Brookville to Indianapolis, which I drafted, and to which the Indiana delegation here have subscribed with one exception.[1]

Towards the close of the last session of Congress, the resolution which was adopted by the house of representatives, at my instance, directing the committee on public lands to inquire into the expediency of establishing a new land district and establishing a land office at Indianapolis, was, by the committee referred to the secretary of the treasury, requesting him to report to the present session of Congress, which he has lately done, his opinions relative to my resolution, as also other resolutions of a similar nature; and also into the expediency of consolidating land offices and land districts which were in existence. He has reported in favor of consolidating several of the land districts now established, and he has not reported in favor of establishing a new district in any case whatever. In consequence of this report, I am satisfied that no new district will be established for years; I have therefore taken measures to have a removal of the Brookville office to Indianapolis. I have had a personal interview with the president on the subject, and pressed his attention to the subject, and he assured me, he would see and consult Mr. Crawford, the secretary of the treasury, on the subject. I am yours, &c. &c.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Inclosure]

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SIR.—By the fourth section of the act of congress, entitled, "An act to designate the boundaries of districts, and establish land offices for the disposal of the public lands, not heretofore

[1] John Test of Brookville was the exception.

offered for sale in the states of Ohio and Indiana, approved the 3d of March, 1819," the president is empowered to remove any of the said land offices to suitable places within the respective districts. The land office established at Terrehaute, by the aforesaid act, has since been moved to the interior of that district, while the land office at Brookville is now located within the Cincinnati land district, about fourteen miles from the eastern boundary of the Brookville district.

The undersigned therefore request that the Brookville land office may be removed to Indianapolis, situated within the said district, and which is the seat of the government of Indiana. This measure would better accommodate the purchasers of the public lands, and tend to advance also the interest of the state, as the state owns a very considerable real estate in and surrounding the plat of the town, and we have good authority to assure you that the officers of the Brookville land office have no objection to such removal.[1]

With great respect, &c. &c.

Feb. 2d, 1825.

Jonathan Jennings
James Noble
Waller Taylor
J. Call

Daniel P. Cook and Jennings to John Quincy Adams

[State Department, M. L., 542]

Sir

By an act passed at the present Session of Congress a commissioner is required to be appointed to survey & Locate a road from Zanesville in Ohio through Indiana & Illinois to the seat of government in Missouri. We desire that you will not act on this subject until we shall have the honor of seeing you in reference to it.

[1]The land office at Brookville had been established in 1820 and was removed to Indianapolis in the fall of 1825. The lands in the district were all in the New Purchase. Reifel, *History of Franklin County*, p. 198.

We have the honor to be with the highest respect
Your ob ser[t]
DAN[l] P. COOK[1]
JONATHAN JENNINGS

H REP[s] U. S.
March 3[rd] 1825
[Addressed:] Hon John Quincy Adams

JENNINGS TO JOHN KIMBERLIN[2]

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON January 11th, 1826

M[r] JOHN KIMBERLIN
DEAR SIR.

The enclosed letter will present to you two or three questions, which you will be pleased to turn your attention to, and give me such information as you possess, as soon as you can conveniently.

We have no news of particular character except, that we have a good prospect of doing something for those who are yet in debt for Lands purchased. We shall do the best we can for them. In haste, I am with great respect
Your friend & Humble Servant
JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mr. John Kimberlin New Lexington Scott County, Ind.

JENNINGS TO JOHN KIMBERLIN[3]

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON CITY 3[d] March 1826

MR. JOHN KIMBERLIN
D[r] SIR.

Enclosed is a written statement by William Selden, Register

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[1]Cook was a representative from Illinois.
[2]See also Jennings to Isaac Kimberlin, April 13, 1822, and to John Kimberlin, March 3, 1826.
[3]See also Jennings to Isaac Kimberlin, April 13, 1822, and to John Kimberlin, January 11, 1826.

of the Virginia Land office, which will show you that a second search has [been] unsuccessful

It is in my opinion useless to petition Congress, as your claim is and was upon the state of Virginia, and the U. States is not bound for the acts and doings of any state, nor do I believe, indeed I am confident that Congress has no single instance, made good the difficulties, between any individual and a state, wherein land or other consideration was involved.

We have no particular news, and am in haste

very respectfully your friend & Servant

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] Mr. John Kimberlin New Lexington, Ind.

JENNINGS TO LEMUEL FORD

[Jennings Collection, Indiana State Library]

WASHINGTON May 9th. 1826

COL: L. FORD

DEAR SIR.

I shall forward under my frank papers and documents, directed to J. Jennings which you will please to retain in your office until I shall return to ask for them in person. With my best wishes for your welfare I am your friend &C.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] The Postmaster Charleston Indiana

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON May, 13th 1826

DOC. DAVID G. MITCHELL

DEAR SIR:-

Enclosed is a letter from a cousin of yours who is now in Congress from Penn[1]

I have suffered, not a little this winter.

---

[1]John Mitchell.

The death of my wife in my absence,[1] The wretched conduct of David, who after taking his seat as a member from Ohio, has thrown himself away completely, and debased himself withal.[2]

The last I heard of him, was that he was in Baltimore, but concealed wrote to his Bh. to borrow money, but would not reveal his hiding place.

I have been mortified enough

Your friend &C. &C.

JONATHAN JENNNINGS

JENNINGS TO EDITORS OF INDIANA JOURNAL

[*Indiana Journal,* June 20, 1826]

WASHINGTON, May 19th, 1826

GENTLEMEN—

We have succeeded, after a very considerable exertion in the House of Representatives, in the passage of an act, appropriating fifteen thousand dollars, to enable the President of the United States to negotiate with the Miami or other Indian tribes, for the extinguishment of Indian title to lands in Indiana.[3] Your friend, &c.

JONATHAN JENNNINGS

JENNINGS TO JAMES B. RAY[4]

[English Collection]

July 13th 1826

HIS EXCELLENCY
JAMES B. RAY
Dr SIR.

On my way to Indianapolis, I have met Mr Kingsbury who

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[1]Mrs. Jennings died March 15, 1826, at the home of her brother Dr. Andrew P. Hay in Charlestown. She was thirty-four years old. Morrison, *Ann Gilmore Hay,* p. 24.

[2]Jennings' brother was elected a representative to the Nineteenth Congress, but resigned May 25, 1826, after serving only part of his term.

[3]The result was the Mississinewa Treaty made with the Miami and Potawatomi tribes. For the provisions, see Kappler, Charles J. (ed.), *Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties,* Vol. 2, pp. 195-201 (Washington, 1904).

[4]Ray was governor of Indiana, 1825-31.

is an applicant for a renewal of his appointment as District prosecuting attorney; and at his request address you a hasty line.[1]

Relative to the qualifications of the applicants I presume to spend no opinions; but I am fully satisfied that several of the counties in the Circuit, are quite satisfied with the manner, in which M^r Kingsbury has discharged his official duties; and under present circumstances, a very considerable dissatisfaction will be the result of a change; and for myself, I have no hesitation, in giving it as my firm and decided opinion, that no change should take place in favour of any individual, under present circumstances, unless by such change, the duties of the office would be better discharged and more ably; and the public interest thereby promoted & advanced.

With great respect I have the honour

to be your ob^t St:

JONATHAN JENNNINGS

[Addressed:] His Excellency James B. Ray, Indianapolis, Ind.

JENNINGS TO JOHN TIPTON

[Tipton Papers, Indiana State Library]

VERNON Aug: 16^th 1826

GEN^l JN^o TIPTON

D^r SIR

John H. Scott Esq^r contemplates being an applicant for ass^t Secretary to the Treaty.[2] He is a young gentleman of respectabil[it]y, both as to talents, character and qualification for the trust he solicits.

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[1]John Kingsbury served as prosecuting attorney of the Second Judicial District from August 9, 1824, to August 14, 1826. Milton Stapp succeeded him. Monks (ed.), *Courts and Lawyers,* Vol. 2, p. 601.

[2]Tipton, Lewis Cass, and James B. Ray had been appointed commissioners to negotiate a new treaty with the Indians for the extinguishment of the Indian title to lands in northern Indiana. James M. Ray received the appointment of assistant secretary. Kappler (ed.), *Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties,* Vol. 2, pp. 276, 280.

Mr Scott however, understands me very distinctly, as taking no part, to prefer any one of the applicants for the appointment.

Any personal civilities you may shew him, will be gratifying to your friend & Humble St

JONATHAN JENNINGS

I Concur with Gov. Jennings as relates to the quallifications of John H. Scott & Should be pleased to See him Succeed. If you can give him any assurance direct your line to Madison

JOHN VAWTER

[Addressed:] General John Tipton J. H. Scott Esq.

JENNINGS TO DAVID G. MITCHELL

[English Collection]

WASHINGTON Decr 28th 1827

Docr D. G. MITCHELL

DEAR SIR

Your letter of the 24th. of last month, did not reach [me] until this morning. The tidings it brings is painful enough, though not altogether unexpected.

I expect she is now happy, and this is the only consolation left to you and her friends, Indeed I have no doubt of it. I deeply condole with you and sincerely agree with you that religion is no chimera, and wish that I were a subject of its influence. I still hope to be.

I should have been greatly gratified if I could have been near my dear Sister. But never more in this world.

Adieu, your friend sincerely. My love to Ann Mariah.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO WILLIAM RUSSELL

[Senate File Cases, 20th Congress, 553]

HOUSE OF REPs Febv 28th 1828

THE HON Mr RUSSELL

SIR.

The petition that was referred, at my instance, to the Comm: on Post offices and Post roads, prayed for the establishment

of a Post Route, from Rushville in the County of Rush, to Edinburgh in the County of Johnson; via Shelbyville in the County of Shelby, in the State of Indiana.

If any doubt shall arise, as to the fact, of any portion of the proposed route, being alredy established as a *mail* route—a reference to the Post Master General, will easily remove any uncertainty upon the subject.[1]

Very respectfully &c &c

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS, THOMAS H. BLAKE, O. H. SMITH, *et al.*
TO LEVI WOODBURY

[Senate Files, 20th Congress, 1775]

TO THE HON. MR. WOODBURY OF THE SENATE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COM^ee^ ON COMMERCE,

The undersigned being informed that the subject has been referred to the Committee of which you are the chairman, of enquiring into the expediency of appropriating money for the improvement of the navigation of the Wabash at the Grand Rapids of that river, take the liberty of submitting to the Committee for their consideration the following remarks;—

The Grand Rapids of the Wabash are below Vincennes and something more than a hundred miles from the mouth of that river. The navigation is good for steam boats below the rapids, and above them for nearly three hundred miles, during the greater part of the year, and the Country throughout this extent is very fertile and productive, in many places already very populous, and generally the inhabitants are rapidly encreasing. The Town of Terre Haute (one of the flourishing towns on this river) lies about 140 miles above Vincennes, is a town extensively engaged in mercantile pursuits and in the trade of the Country, and its merchants depend almost entirely on the river for intercourse with a southern depot or with any point on the Ohio to which their merchandize may have been brought

[1] An act establishing post roads provided for the one referred to here by Jennings. *Annals of Congress,* 20 Congress, 1 session, p. xli (Appendix).

from the Eastern markets. Hundreds of arks or "Kentucky boats" annually descend the river from this point loaded with pork, corn and whisky, and the undersigned much regret that they can not at this time state with precision the amount of the exports from this place and its vicinity, as the fact would demonstrate the necessity of opening the navigation at this point, either with a view to the prosperity of the Country or to make the public lands desirable to emigrants.

When the waters are high, steam boats pass over the rapids and ascend the river to Terre Haute and even to the mouth of Tippecanoe river, but their officers are always under some degree of alarm lest the river should suddenly fall so as to prevent their *recrossing* the rapids and returning to the Ohio. The character of this obstruction frightens from us in a great measure all descriptions of craft which navigate our waters, and it is unquestionably a formidable and ruinous barrier to the commerce and improvement of the Country. That the obstruction might be removed easily, so far as to give a good and sufficient channel for the passage of steam and other boats, there can be no doubt. The subject has been under the consideration of the Legislatures of Indiana and Illinois (for at this point the river is the boundary between the two states), and Commissioners were once appointed by them, jointly to examine and report on the practicability of opening the navigation at these rapids. This duty was discharged by them, and so far as their report is recollected by the undersigned, it affords an additional inducement for inviting the attention of the government to the important object. The obstruction is occasioned by soft, crustaceous rocks extending across and for a short distance along the river, and it is believed that the judicious expenditure of three or four thousand dollars, if it would not fully effect the object, would at least so far improve the navigation as to render an important and desirable service to the Country at large.

The undersigned need not advert to the condition of Indiana and Illinois when they were admitted into the Union as sovereign states,—that they were very limited in population, that

their citizens had but little money to contribute for any purpose however called for by circumstances, that since that time the embarrassment in the Western and North Western Country has been general and most sensibly felt,—that these causes have precluded those young states from participating in the honor of internal improvements upon their own resources.

The undersigned would most respectfully urge the Committee to take this matter into serious consideration, and will indulge the hope that their final determination will not be at variance with the wishes of the undersigned and of those whom they have the honor to represent.[1]

Feby 28th 1828

THO H BLAKE
O H SMITH
JONATHAN JENNINGS
J. B. THOMAS
WILLIAM HENDRICKS
JOSEPH DUNCAN
E K KANE

JENNINGS TO JOHN TIPTON

[Tipton Papers]

WASHINGTON Feby 6th 1829

GEN[l] JOHN TIPTON.

D[r] SIR.

I have just received your letter relative to Cass declining,[2] and the letter from Linton.[3] I will attend to it in due time.

I enclose you a copy of charges made against you under date of the 8th of December last. At that time, the author

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[1]The signatures are those of the representatives and senators in Congress from Indiana and Illinois. The name of James Noble, senator from Indiana, is missing. Five hundred dollars was appropriated for surveying the obstructions of the Wabash River between its mouth and the Eel River. *Annals of Congress,* 20 Congress, 1 session, p. xxiv (Appendix).

[2]Probably referring to his appointment on a commission for making a treaty with the Winnebago Indians. See John H. Scott to Tipton, January 2, 1829, *Tipton Papers.*

[3]William C. Linton, of Terre Haute.

could not have known who was elected President; and may have a connexion with the threats, of which you apprized me from Indianapolis. They cannot, they will not dismiss you without a hearing, and of course the affair will be under the new administration.[1]

As you have done, rely on yourself, and as one friend will guard against machinery. We have no news, except Gen[l] Jackson will be here in 6 or 8 days. Your friend sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO HIS CONSTITUENTS

[*Indiana Journal,* April 16, 1829]

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

The third day of the last month terminated the twentieth Congress. A very considerable portion of the business of a former session was left undisposed of and devolved, as unfinished business, upon the deliberations of the session which has been lately closed.

Although the time of the late session was much less occupied by protracted and heated debates, than was that of the session immediately preceding; yet much business, even of that which was arranged as unfinished, was necessarily left undecided for want of time.

Among the subjects which more immediately interest you, and which have to await, under the above circumstances, the future attention of Congress, are the propositions to give preemption rights to those who have relinquished lands under former relief laws; to graduate and reduce the price of the public lands; to authorize the sale of the lands reserved for the use of salt springs, and to vest the same under the direction of the legislature, for the sole use and purpose of education; and likewise, the proposition relative to the right of the state to the unappropriated lands within its limits.

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[1]William Stockton, of Clinton, Indiana, charged Tipton with paying five franc pieces to the Indians in place of dollars, and giving two merchants in Terre Haute an exorbitant percentage on goods delivered to the Indians. Stockton to Peter B. Porter, December 8, 1828, *Tipton Papers.*

Although I have never encouraged the belief that any further provision would be made, for the relief of those who were debtors to the United States for lands purchased after the last act passed on this subject, and which expires on the fourth day of July next, I am of opinion that after the late message of the late president of the United States, that a further time ought to be given at the next session of Congress. This, in all probability, would have been done at the last session, but for the opposition of Mr. Vinton of Ohio, a member of the committee on the public lands, against the passage of a bill which had passed the Senate for that purpose. But in the mean time, every individual debtor to the United States, had better use every exertion to adjust and close his account at the proper Land Office.

Those subjects, I trust will meet the early attention of Congress at the ensuing session, though the graduation and reduction of the price of the public lands, and the right of the state to the soil within her limits, cannot be said as yet to have met the most gracious reception.

These last mentioned subjects, so far interfere with each other, that if the right of the state, to the soil in question were recognized by Congress, the graduation and reduction of the price would of course belong to the state and not to Congress. On the other hand, the graduation and reduction of price, by Congress, and that too as asked for by a memorial of the Legislature during the pendancy of the claim on the part of the state, to the eminent domain, would present, a negative admission of the right and power on the part of Congress, to the soil itself and to regulate and dispose of the same. These subjects will afford matter for much debate in future, on more points than one; while some are of opinion, that the claim of soil should not be pressed, until the public debt is extinguished.

During the last session, besides 100,000 dollars, for the extension of the Cumberland road, west of Zanesville Ohio, $50,000 were likewise appropriated, for the purpose of taking off the timber, eighty feet wide across our state, beginning at Indianapolis and proceeding east and west, and further to

improve the road by digging down the banks, and erecting bridges, so far as the amount may warrant. The appropriation will afford three hundred and thirty-three dollars, thirty-three cents per mile, calculating one hundred and fifty miles, as the length of the road within our state.

Thus far Indiana has obtained, a much greater proportion of the public resources, in comparison to her population, than a large majority of the other states of the Union. Decidedly in favor of internal improvement myself, yet some settled system should be adopted, calculated to do equal justice, or we may have to meet, conflicts and jealousies among the states, calculated to retard a regular progress of the work, and operate most injuriously to the harmony and unison of action which should be cherished, each towards each other, by the states of the Union.

At another and more leisure time not far distant, I may add more on the subject of internal improvement, which has heretofore attracted public attention within the limits of Indiana. In the mean time, I am most respectfully

Your obedient servant.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

JENNINGS TO JOHN TIPTON

[Tipton Papers]

CHARLESTON July 25th 1829

DEAR SIR

Your letter by Mr Gray I received on yesterday, and write with the hope that you will receive this before the 13 of next month. I cannot visit you this year. I am making arrangements to move into the country and moreover am short of spare cash, having unexpectedly to meet $400.—which I had borrowed for Docr Hay two years ago.[1]

I now detail to you what I give to your confidence and

[1] In the settlement of the funds of the land office at Jeffersonville, Andrew P. Hay, the receiver, was found short of the amount he should have had. Pence, George, "General Joseph Bartholomew," in *Indiana Magazine of History,* Vol. 24, p. 298.

alone to your confidence. Soon after the Supreme Court in May last, I was asked if I knew of any measures in contemplation to defeat Hendricks in the next election to the Senate, and whether I thought of being a candidate To this I replied I knew of none, and as to myself I had neither written nor made any calculations of being a candidate nor did I intend so to do. I was then asked, if I knew whether you did not intend to be a candidate. I replied that I had no information on that subject whatever.

Just before M^r^ Gray left here for your Town, I was told that Sweetzer said to Howk,[1] that he wanted to put Hendricks down. Howk has long disliked Hendricks. Howk replied by assenting, if he could elect in the place of Hendricks some person to please him, and named me. Sweetzer observed I would not do—that the same objection lay to me as to Hendricks, viz, we were not Jackson-men, and said it must be a Jackson man, who with some votes from members of the Legislature that were Adams men would defeat Hendricks. Sweetzer had just returned from Brookville. I did not intend to make this communication so soon, but seeing you are to Have the great men of the state with you, my object is that you may know, before they arrive.[2]

Take your own course. I have no desire but to remain for a time in my present station, and rid myself of pecuniary obligations as soon as I can.

Appearances would indicate, that Noble intends to give Hendricks a back-handed blow.[3]

Howk says he has no objections to favour your Canal, so far as the lands donated can effect it, but that it would be

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[1]Philip Sweetser and Isaac Howk. Sweetser first settled at Madison and then moved to Columbus. He and James Noble were law partners. Howk was a resident of Charlestown, served as prosecuting attorney in the Second Judicial District, and represented Clark County in the House of Representatives for seven sessions. Nowland, *Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876*, pp. 157-59, 291-93.

[2]Letters in the Tipton Papers show that this refers to a Masonic meeting to be held in Logansport, on August 13. Jennings and Tipton were both prominent members of the order.

[3]James Noble was the senior senator from Indiana.

political death to go farther. Morrison the Editor wrote against the Canal measure last winter, which I never knew until last winter.[1]

In haste your friend sincerely

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] General John Tipton Logansport Indiana Via Vincennes and Terre Haute

JENNINGS TO GEORGE GRAHAM

[General Land Office, M. L. R., Vol. 1, p. 910]

CHARLESTON IN^{da} August 10th 183[0]

HON GEORGE GRAHAM

SIR.

I enclose a letter from the Commissioners of the Wabash & Erie Canal. It will readily be perceived that, the sales of the Canal Lands, in point of time, is fixed by a law of the state, and cannot be changed, only by an extra Session of the Legislature. The sales of the U. States Lands, can be deferred without legislative interposition.

The Department, did not know that the same day, the U. S. lands were ordered to be sold, was the same, that the law of the state had fixed on for the Sale of the Canal lands.

I am conscious that the interest of the U. S. and this state, would be materially advantaged by deferring the sales of the U. S.; and the former much the more.

Very respectfully, your Obt: St:

JONATHAN JENNINGS

[Addressed:] The Hon: George Graham Commissioner of the G. L. Office Washington City

[Indorsed:] Charleston Ind^{a} 10th Aug 1830. Hon Jon^{a} Jennings. Req. that the sale of the U. S. lands at Crawfordsville may be postponed to Novem^{r} on acc^{t} of conflicting with

[1] Alexander F. Morrison. He came to Charlestown about 1818 and there learned the printing trade. He represented Clark County in the House of Representatives in 1830 and the following year began publishing the *Indiana Democrat* in Indianapolis. Nowland, John H. B., *Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis* . . . , p. 218 (Indianapolis, 1870).

the sale of the Wabash & Erie canal lands & enclosing a letter from Sam[l] Lewis, Commiss[r] Sale postponed

JENNINGS TO ———
[English Collection]

January 4th 1832

D[r] SIR

I reached my Cabin in safety, though quite a disagreeable travel. My home business, Mills & Co, not doing well; and have been neccessarily much engaged.[1]

I have not as yet been able to get my Niece from Corydon, but will as soon as possible.

Say to William Graham, that a state Road, or a connection of County roads, from Sages Ferry, would best comport with his interest of Jackson; to lead by Carr's and by Bottorffs mills, from the latter is a road to New Albany from the former to Jeffersonville. Let it come by Jebulon Collings and Bazil Bowells, and then by Established County roads to Carr's, then the interest of the Country would be subserved, and individual interests preserved.[2] A State that affords *not,* charts of its

[1]Jennings had a mill on his farm near Charlestown and supplied the neighborhood with corn meal and buckwheat flour. Like many of the other settlers he also made whiskey. Bailey, Joy Julian, Ms. biography of Jennings, in the Indiana State Library; *Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties,* Vol. 2, p. 339.

[2]Graham was a state senator from Jackson County. At that time there was no direct road from that county to Jeffersonville and New Albany. The road proposed by Jennings would have remedied this. Sage's Ferry (later known as Mt. Sidney) was on the Muscatatuck River in what is now Driftwood Township, Jackson County. From there the road was to lead through Scott County into Clark County passing by the homes of Zebulon Collins, one and a half miles east of Henryville, and Basil Bowel in Union Township. Carr's mills were located on the stream of Pleasant Run near what is now the junction of Utica, Silver Creek, and Jeffersonville townships, and Bottorff's mills were farther up the same stream. In 1833 an act was passed making the road from New Albany to Lexington, in Scott County, a state road. It was to pass by way of Bottorff's mills, Charlestown, and the farm of Zebulon Collins. In 1851 an act was passed incorporating the Charlestown and Brownstown Plank Road Company. This road was to pass through Sage's Ferry. *Ibid.,* Vol. 2, pp. 51, 339, 547; *Laws of Indiana,* 1832-33, pp. 167, 190; 1851-52, p. 565.

o[w]n geograph must legislate *"as through a glass darkly."*

My respects to Mr. Daniel, with which I charge you—[1] and am yours &C. &C. &C.

JONATHAN JENNINGS

ask Ferguson on his return to get my boots at the Camp Tavern, leave at Simonson.

JENNINGS, JOHN W. DAVIS, AND MARKS CRUME TO LEWIS CASS

[Senate File Cases, 23d Congress, 1157]

TREATY GROUND FORKS OF THE WABASH
Sep[r] 15, 1832

THE HON,
THE SECY. OF WAR
SIR,

We have received a requistion in our favour for five thousand dollars on account of the appropriation to carry into effect the Act of July 9, 1832 pursuant to requisition No. 2976 of the Acting Secretary of War, dated 13 August 1832 countersigned by the second Comptroller of the Treasury, and Registered by the second Auditor, and dated the 15. of August 1832

very Respectfully your
Obt. sevts.

JONATHAN JENNINGS
JOHN W. DAVIS
MARKS CRUME
Commissioners &c[2]

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[1]Richard Daniel was a member of the House of Representatives from Posey County during the session of 1832-33.

[2]Jennings, Davis, and Crume were appointed commissioners under the act of July 9, 1832 to treat with the Miami and Potawatomi for title to their lands in northern Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. In September they attempted to negotiate with the Miami at the Forks of the Wabash (the junction of the Wabash and the Little, or Little Wabash, River, near the present town of Huntington) where this letter was written. This effort failed, as shown in a letter of John D. Richardville written from Fort Wayne, December 4, 1832, to Lewis Cass. Senate File Cases, 23d Congress, 1189. They succeeded in

JENNINGS, JOHN W. DAVIS, AND MARKS CRUME TO LEWIS CASS

[By courtesy of Carl A. Ploch]

TREATY GROUND Sept. 15, 1832

Dlls 15000.

SIR,

At sight pay to the order of I. T. Canby, Fifteen Thousand dollars under an Act "to enable the President to extinguish Indian title within the States of Indiana, Illinois and the Territory of Michigan" approved July 9th 1832, and charge as per advice of this date.

(Original)

JONATHAN JENNINGS
JOHN W. DAVIS
MARKS CRUME
Commissioners &c

TO THE HON. LEWIS CASS
Secty of War

JENNINGS, JOHN W. DAVIS, AND MARKS CRUME TO LEWIS CASS

[Senate File Cases, 23d Congress, 1158]

TREATY GROUND FORKS OF THE WABASH
Sept 15th 1832

THE HON SECRETARY OF WAR

SIR

Your letter of the 10th ult° was this day received, My appointment and instructions reached me not until the 30th of July last at Charlestown, and a blank appointment for Anthony. L. Davis as Special Commissary signed by John. W. Davis to which I affixed my signature, understanding the appointment

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negotiating treaties with the Potawatomi on the Tippecanoe River where the Michigan Road crossed it near the present town of Rochester. These treaties were signed October 20, 26, and 27, 1832. The total amount appropriated was $20,000. *Annals of Congress*, 22 Congress, 1 Session, pt. 3, p. xxxii (Appendix); Barnhart, Henry A. (ed.), *An Account of Fulton County from its Organization*, p. 23 (Dayton, Ohio, 1923).

of A. L. Davis would meet M^r^ Crooms aprobation, We met on the 16^th^ ult. at Indianap^s^—And then M^r^ Croom being present united in the appointment of A. L. Davis as likewise in the Draft drawn in his favour as Commissary for $20.000 and were each of them at that time dated accordingly.

It was not the intention of either of the Commissioners to transcend the instructions of the Department but to meet its wishes as far as possible in limiting our expenditures.

The Miame's are nearly assembled and the time for meeting the Pottawatomies is fixed. By Drawing for $20,000 we intended to anticipate the difficulties of realizing the Appropriation, which might occur in our proceedings when money might [be] absolutely necessary. Having thus explained the previous occurrence relative to our mission, permit the suggestion that some measure may be taken by the Department to arrange the discrepancy that has occured between our course and the Department.

The intention of the Commissioners and their instructions to their Commissary were to deposit ten thousand to the credit of U. S. to be drawn on as our duty from time to time require. And what ever residue of the appropriation might remain to advise the Department of the Amount unexpended and subject to its orders.

We expect to consumate both Treaties before the close of the next month, and may require the whole appropriation, but if not, any ballance that shall be left will be deposited in such Bank as the Department shall advise, There is no Bank in this State nor are we advised of any in Illinois or Michigan whose paper is current in Indiana To avail ourselves of the necessary funds therefor and prevent an unavoidable and not less disagreeable suspension of our duties, we have all ready procured money from Doc^t^ I. T. Canby of Crawfordsville Ind^a^ and assigned him the drafts for $5.000 drawn by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the Cashier of the Bank of the United States at Louisville, dated August 16^th^ and under this date have drawn duplicate Drafts on the Department for $15000 in his favour.

Any advise will be best Rec^d^ Via Fort Wayne to Logansport

Cass County, as the dates the receipts of past communications will show.

With much respect
Your Obedient Servts

JONATHAN JENNINGS
JOHN W. DAVIS
MARKS CRUME
Commissioners &c

JENNINGS, JOHN W. DAVIS, AND MARKS CRUME
TO LEWIS CASS

[Senate File Cases, 23d Congress, 1172]

TREATY GROUND TIPPECANOE RIVER
Oct. 22, 1832

THE HON: SECY WAR.

Sir, Your letter of the 3rd inst. is before us. Circumstances not within our controul have required, and will demand, the whole or nearly so, of the appropriation. If possible we will reserve a part of the appropriation, and we can say with some confidence, have regarded our instructions, and have been economical. The whole sum, will we hope be placed subject to our drafts, under the assurance of our letter of the 15. ult.

We are respectfully,
Sir, your Obt Servt's

JONATHAN JENNINGS
J W DAVIS
MARKS CRUME
Comm^rs
&c &c

Hon. Lewis Cass

JENNINGS, JOHN W. DAVIS, AND MARKS CRUME TO LEWIS CASS

[Senate File Cases. 23d Congress, 1179]

TREATY GROUND TIPPECANOE RIVER
Oct. 22. 1832

SIR

We have this day drawn drafts duplicate, upon the Department for ten Thousand dollars, the residue of the appropriation, under the Act "9 July 1832" for holding treaties with the Indian Tribes, in favour of I. T. Canby

With great respect
Your obt Serv'ts

JONATHAN JENNINGS
J W DAVIS
MARKS CRUME
Com^rs &c

THE HON.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

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